Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Iranian Airliner Hijacking Incident 'Over'

Steward Reportedly Hijacked Plane

TA1909123995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he allowed the hijacked Iranian plane to land at the 'Uvda airfield because he did not want to be responsible for the death of the people on board. According to him, it was the airplane steward who hijacked the plane. In his interrogation, the hijacker said that another two armed men, the plane's security officers, remain on board.

The prime minister pointed out that Israel will deal with the issue carefully and will make the necessary decisions as soon as the findings become clearer. I hope the affair will end well, the prime minister said, but at the moment we do not know the exact identity of the passengers.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 19 September adds that "Rabin was also asked if there is any suspicion that the whole affair was a trap and not a genuine hijacking, to which he replied that there was such a fear but that it was decided to permit the aircraft to land in Israel nonetheless."]

The hijacked plane, which landed over two hours ago at 'Uvda, north of Elat, is still parked on the runway. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the vicinity of the airfield that the pilots are currently being interrogated. The passengers remain on board the plane. Two ambulances were called to the airfield, but no vehicle has left the field so far. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1220 GMT 19 September carries a live report from 'Uvda by Moti Amir, who says the hijacker "simply hijacked the plane using a gun. He fired a single bullet inside the plane during the hijacking. No one was hurt. There are no wounded aboard the plane; there never were."]

Eytan Haber, director of the prime minister's bureau, informed the director of King Husayn's bureau of Israel's intention to allow the Iranian plane to land on Israeli territory. This has been learned by our correspondent Yo'el Nir. Earlier, Jordan had informed Israel of the Iranian pilot's intention to continue on his way to Israel. The U.S. Embassy in Jordan was involved in the developments.

Steward Asks for U.S. Asylum

TA1909125995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1230 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Report by Moti Amir in 'Uvda — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several minutes ago it became apparent that the event is over. The passengers are currently disembarking from the plane, women and children, and they are being taken to the terminal for a brief rest.

Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq is here with the commander of the Southern Command; the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch is also here, and they were all briefed. The entire crew has been questioned, as we have reported before. [passage omitted]

The hijacker, the steward, is being kept in isolation, and he will probably remain under interrogation here. And, as soon as the plane is refueled and the passengers have relaxed, it will leave Israel. The incident is over. [passage omitted]

[At 1240 GMT on 19 September, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew adds: "We have just been told that the steward has asked for political asylum in the United States."]

IRNA: Israeli Landing Planned 'in Advance'

LD1909140095 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sep. 19, IRNA — A hijacked Iranian airliner, a Boeing 707 with 174 passengers and crew, landed at the 'Uvda air-force base near the southern town of Elat in the Zionist state around 10:00 GMT.

Two hijackers reportedly surrendered to Israeli authorities and a third is believed to be still on board, according to a dispatch from AL-QUDS.

Initial reports said that several passengers were injured, but this has not been officially confirmed.

The four-engine passenger plane, which was on a domestice flight from Tehran to the Persian Gulf island of Kish, made an emergency landing at ovda after the Jordanian authorities had refused to allow it to land at Amman international airport.

In a radio communication with the Israeli traffic controller at 'Uvda base, the iranian pilot said the plane was short of fuel and that he was about to make a crash landing. It is still unclear who the hijackers are and what their motives were.

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However, it is believed the hijackers had planned their landing in Israel in advance since the Zionist state is the only country in the region in direct confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Israeli chief of staff, Gen. Amnon Shahaq, said security forces were put on high alert at 'Uvda and an emergency situation was declared.

Shahak added that everything was under control and that the hijackers were being questioned by the israelis.

An Israeli commentator of Iranian origin, Amir Menashe, said the hijackers were probably seeking political asylum in Israel knowing that they would not be extradited back to Iran.

Latest reports indicated that the two hijackers were among the stewards of the plane.

The hijacking of the Iranian plane to Israel is the first of its kind since the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1978.

'Evidences' of Preplanning With Israel Cited

LD1909153095 Tehran IRNA in English
1511 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — An Iranian aviation expert, Javad Nemati said here on Tuesday [19 September] the evidences indicated that the hijackers of Iranian passenger plane have been in contact with the military officials in advance of their operation.

Nemati told IRNA that the information recorded at the control tower indicated that the hijackers had forced the pilot to take them to Israel.

The expert said one of the hijackers who had master-minded the terrorist operation had told the pilot, "our hosts are waiting for us in Israel, we should arrive at our destination, Israel soon."

There exist undeniable evidences that the hijacking had taken place in coordination with Israeli officials. For instance, the Israeli prime minister ordered personally that the plane should land at a military airport and Israeli Radio broadcast the radio conversation between the pilot and Israeli officials.

The Boeing 707 passenger plane with over 160 passengers on board was hijacked on a domestic flight from Tehran to the Persian Gulf island of Kish this morning.

International laws regard hijacking as a terrorist act and caution all states against admitting and supporting the terrorists.

An official at Iranian Civil Aviation told IRNA that in the past ten years over 70 attempts to hijack Iranian passenger planes have been foiled, 11 of which in mid-air.

The latest terrorist operation of this kind was the hijacking of a small plane belonging to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) two years ago which was taken to Iraq by the terrorist Mojahedeen khalq organization (mko).

The terrorists had not succeeded in hijacking any iranian airliners in the past few years thanks to the vigilance of flight security officers, he said.

IRNA: Passengers Want To Return to Iran

LD1909200995 Tehran IRNA in English
1947 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sep. 19, IRNA — All passengers and crew members on the Iranian Boeing 707, which was hijacked to an air base in Israel Tuesday, wanted to return home immediately, said a dispatch to IRNA from al-Quds [Jerusalem] today evening.

The Zionist regime was trying to spread misinformation by alleging that a few passengers wanted to stay back in the Zionist state.

The passengers, interviewed by the Israeli television, expressed surprise that their aircraft had landed in Israel. They said they were flying to the Island of Kish on a holiday trip when the Iran Air jet was hijacked. The passengers said they had no idea where the plane was headed for.

The TV-showed some of the passengers saying their afternoon prayers at the 'Uvda air-base where the hijacked aircraft had landed.

The dispatch said the Iranian passengers behaved as "very good Muslims."

Jordanian Army Officer Cited on 'Scheme'

LD1909154895 Tehran IRNA in English
1535 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stockholm, Sept. 19, IRNA — A Jordanian army veteran said here today that he knew about an anti-Iranian scheme among Israelis about two weeks ago.

The Jordanian, Brigadier Kamal Mohammad, 61, said that in his talks with two Israeli reporters at a luncheon on the western part of Jordan two weeks ago, he heard observations by them indicating a scheme in the making by the Israelis, the two of them only saying "don't hurry, our friends are on their way".

He said the Zionist regime is the symbol of government-sponsored terrorism, and that the reception Israel had

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given the hijackers of the Iranian plane was evidence of their foreknowledge of the event.

An Iranian passenger plane, a Boeing 707, was hijacked by armed terrorists to Israel on her flight to the Iranian Persian Gulf island of Kish Tuesday [19 September] morning.

Nateq-Nuri Asks UN for Return of Plane

LD2009085195 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, Irna— Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri called on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate measures for returning the Iranian hijacked airliner from Israel.

Addressing the open session of Majles here Wednesday [20 September], the speaker condemned hijacking of the Iranian Boeing 707 by agents of the Zionist regime and those of world arrogance as a disgrace for the so-called advocates of the human rights in the international circles.

The Iranian Boeing 707 was hijacked on a domestic flight from Tehran to the Persian Gulf Island of Kish and landed at Ovda Air Force base in occupied Palestine with over 170 passangers and crew on board.

The Zionist regime has justified that it was forced to permit the plane to land at the airport, since the Boeing 707 was out of fuel, Nateq-Nuri said. However, he asked why the Zionist regime has questioned all passengers individually and why it rejected to return them to Iran.

The speaker noted that hijacking of an Iranian airliner by an illegitimate regime which had terrorism, abduction and inhuman measures at the top of its activities, was not something new.

He said world countries should not remain indifferent or silent towards such terrotrist acts and kidnappings by the Zionist regime.

Nateq-Nuri said the conspiracy of hijacking Iranian airliner should be considered in line with other plots of the world arrogance and the usurper regime of al-Quds [Jerusalem] such as the imposed war and the economic sanction against Iran.

Tehran Calls on Aviation Authorities

LD2009101995 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Iran called on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to take necessary steps for returning the Iranian hijacked airliner from the occupied Palestine.

Deputy Minister of Road and Transportation and head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran 'Ali Shahcheraghi, in a letter to the president of ICAO council, Assad Kotaite, called on him to take necessary measures to return the Boeing 707 and its passangers and crew from the occupied regime of al-Quds [Jerusalem].

The plane was hijacked on a domestic flight from Tehran to the Persian Gulf island of Kish and landed at Ovda Air Force base in occupied Palestine.

"The passangers are consisting of 80 men, 70 women, 10 children 14 crew and 1 infant," the letter was read.

It requested the ICAO official "to take the necessary steps for returning the aircraft, its occupants and the hijackers as well to the Islamic Republic of Iran at your earliest time."

Meanwhile, the Iranian permanent representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, in a letter to the U.N. secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali Tuesday [19 September], condemned the terrorist act of hijacking.

In addition, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, here Wednesday called on the U.N. Security Council to take immediate measures for returning the iranian hijacked aircraft and its passangers and crew.

Exiled Iranian Links Incident, Ferment in Army

TA1909133195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of an Iranian organization for human rights located in Paris has asked the Israeli Government not to send the hijackers or the passengers of the plane back to Iran because they would be murdered there.

Dr. Manuchehr Ganji, former Iranian foreign minister [as heard], told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that it appears that the plane was hijacked while leased out to take senior army officers and their families to a resort site — which indicates that there is rising ferment in the army.

'Another Five Passengers' Request Asylum

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 September, in an announcer-read report quoting correspondent Gil'ad 'Adin, says that "besides the hijacker, another five passengers have asked for political asylum in Israel."

Later on in the newsreel, Gil'ad 'Adin relays a live report from 'Uvda, adding that the "Iranian guests will

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not fly tonight. They will get organized and sleep here in the 'Uvda military base, under a guard unit's protection. Beds and sheets will be prepared for them and only tomorrow morning will their flight back to Tehran take place." "The talks with and interrogation of the people here are continuing, and all arrangements necessary for their return home have apparently not been completed."

Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 on 19 September carries a live update from 'Uvda by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, repeating that "the Iranian plane will not be allowed to leave tonight — this is clear." Rosen notes the following, however: "It is said that the plane will not be released before tomorrow at noon." "Consultations are currently taking place in Jerusalem. Clearly, when an Iranian plane with over 170 passengers is here, and while considering the Ron Arad affair, these people cannot just be allowed to leave." Rosen goes on to say that "the hijacker will be handed over to the International Red Cross."

Israelis Release Plane, Refuse Asylum

TA2009100195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0910 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs — the so-called defense cabinet — which convenes weekly and whose resolutions usually cannot be publicized on the day they are made, has issued an official statement announcing that the committee had convened this morning and decided to release the hijacked Iranian plane and all its passengers, crew, and cargo. The hijacker will be held for interrogation in Israel.

The statement has two more clauses: Israel denounces aircraft hijackings and acts in accordance with international treaties in this respect. The third clause says that because Israel categorically repudiates air piracy, it is releasing the airplane despite the Iranian regime's hostility toward Israel. This was the ministerial committee's resolution. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 20 September adds: "Our correspondent Uri Segal reports that Israel has dismissed the appeals of at least five passengers who wanted to remain in Israel or to receive political asylum in another Western country rather than return to Iran.

["Our correspondent Re'uven Saltz adds that the hijacker will be arraigned at the Elat Peace Magistrate's Court this morning."]

Plane's Departure Time 'Unclear'

TA2009064095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The time of the Iranian plane's departure is unclear at this time, and military elements are expected to make a decision on how to handle the plane and the passengers.

Our correspondent Esti Perez reports from 'Uvda Airport that the passengers spent the night at the sleeping facilities of a local army installation. They are scheduled to meet with captured navigator Ron Arad's relatives in an hour.

The passengers repeatedly told the troops guarding them that they were surprised at how well they were being treated in Israel.

Last night the hijacker was taken into custody at the Elat police station. Five passengers, in addition to him, have asked for political asylum in Israel.

Iran has charged Israel with responsibility for the plane's hijacking, and the UN secretary general has asked Israel to send the hijacked plane and passengers back to Iran.

'Technical Hitch' Delays Departure

TA2009123495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A decision was made this morning to release the Iranian plane and to allow it and its passengers and cargo to leave. The passengers began to embark the plane at the 'Uvda base when a technical hitch was discovered and the takeoff was delayed. Reference has been made to some technical item that the 'Uvda base does not have, and a way to solve the problem is now being sought. The hijacker, currently held by the Elat police, apparently will be handed over to the Red Cross. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas, Israel Reportedly Hold 'Secret Negotiations'

JN1909160895 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Sep 95 pp 1, 26

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Informed Cairo-based Palestinian sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that the Palestinian National Authority obtained confirmed reports on secret negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, started one and a half months ago.

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The reports to this effect received by the Palestinian Authority stated that these negotiations are alternately conducted at the al- Shaykh Husayn Bridge in northern Jordan and an agency affiliated with the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture in occupied Jerusalem. Hamas is represented in the negotiations by Ibrahim Ghawshah, official Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Mahmud al-Zahhar, and 'Imad al- Faluji. As for the Israeli side to the talks, it is represented by the minister of religious affairs, the deputy commander of the internal security service, Israeli Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq, Israeli Knesset member Hashim Mahamid, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's adviser for Arab affairs, the last of whom were instrumental in arranging for these negotiations, given their Arab origins.

AL-ITTIHAD learned that these secret negotiations between Hamas and the Israeli Government are aimed at achieving a deal, according to which the Hamas Movement's political leaders will intercede with the movement's military wing to bring about a halt to martyrdom operations against Israeli targets in exchange for a halt to Israeli pursuit of Hamas leaders and releasing Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Hamas Movement, and other Hamas prisoners.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that the Hamas representatives demonstrated a willingness to halt martyrdom operations for only two months rather than indefinitely in anticipation of the outcome of the ongoing talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, particularly over the Palestinian autonomy elections. Likewise, representatives of the Israeli Government expressed a readiness to release Shaykh Yasin and Hamas officials with the understanding that this move will be implemented after the signing of an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule.

Quray' Views Hebron Issue in Upcoming Cairo Talks

JN1609121095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', chief Palestinian negotiator in the talks with Israel, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio; from the "New Day" feature; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Abu-'Ala'.

[Quray'] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] There will be another Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. Can we say that the important, difficult issues have been transferred to Cairo?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, the negotiations on the level of delegations have exhausted all the powers of the delegates. The remaining issues may be called the difficult ones. I should not say this because all issues in the Oslo agreement are difficult. However, these issues were discussed at length, were highlighted, and have become the most conspicuous. For instance, nobody can imagine an agreement without Hebron. Hebron is a one hundred percent Palestinian and Muslim city wnd will not subjected to haggling. Some ask me: Why do you say Palestinian city? I reply that this must be emphasized and must be part of the agreement. Israel's policy since the negotiations on Hebron began seems as though there are doubts about Hebron, that there is partnership or dualism there. This notion must be removed from all minds. The agreement should not contain any element of doubt that could make Hebron a subject of haggling. It is a Palestinian city, and must remain so. There must be redeployment from Hebron. There should be Palestinian police there. Life should return to normal there. No objection to studying some provisional and special security arrangements for some time. [Passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that differences are rife. However, Palestinian circles have evinced optimism that the agreement will be signed before the Jewish new year; that is, next Thursday [21 September]. I infer from your remarks that you do not agree?

[Quray'] I really do not want to agree or disagree, but I will always adhere to the stand which was taken on these negotiations. This agreement is extremely difficult and complicated. Its importance stems from the fact that it lays down a basis for and defines the upcoming permanent phase. Therefore, we must be careful and wary. We should not leave issues unresolved now. All the transitional phase issues must be included in the transitional agreement. We should not leave out issues between now and the next phase. The above issues are not the only ones. There are many other issues, 62 in all. These will be discussed this week, within the next two days.

If there are good intentions, if decisions are made, and if no maneuvers or blackmail attempts are made at the eleventh hour, then it will be possible to decide all these issues in one night. If intentions take a contrary course, negotiations will continue for months. Therefore, everything depends on the formula, the methods, and the stand which will be adopted by the Israeli delegation tomorrow. [Passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] If the transitional agreement is signed, will it be a turning point in the Palestinian-Israeli relations?

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[Quray'] Undoubtedly. If we regard the Declaration of Principles [DOP] a turning point in the region's history, then the transitional agreement will be a turning point in the history of the DOP. It will make of the DOP an agreement on which there can be no going back. It will make it agreement that builds a homeland, a state.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you, Abu-'Ala'. We will try to contact you in Cairo today if possible.

Oslo Opponents Demand Settlers Leave Hebron

TA1909192295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo accord held a rally in Hebron this evening. They called on the Hebron mayor, currently in Taba, not to agree to Israel's proposals in the negotiations, and demanded that all settlers leave Hebron and that the redeployment principle apply to it as to all other West Bank towns. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Al-Za'nun Warns Against Concessions on Hebron

MM1909131695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report from Tunis: "Al-Za'nun Asks the Palestine Authority Not To Give Any Concessions Regarding Hebron and Warns the Libyans Against Continuing With Eviction Operations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis— The Acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Salim al-Za'nun (Abu al-Adib) has warned the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] against offering any concessions to the Israeli side in regard to the town of Hebron.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu al-Adib said that any remission on the part of the Authority in the case of Hebron will lead to the collapse of the Authority itself. He added: "If the Palestinian Authority [PA] were to accept Israeli withdrawal from Hebron in seven stages, according to the Israeli vizualization, the Palestinian masses, particularly those in the Hebron region, would eject the Authority which would, in that case, lose its credibility."

Abu al-Adib, who is now in the United States, where he has participated in the International Parliamentary Union's conference, has pointed out that any remission and concessions by the PA as regards the Hebron question, will open the door for offering other concessions in other matters which could include the question of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which will in its turn be exposed to similar events as those that have happened in respect of the Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron].

Al-Za'nun, who is a member of the Fatah Central Committee, has held the American Administration fully responsible for the impediment the Palestinian-Israeli peace process negotiations have been witnessing. He said that the United States has left the Palestinians and the Israelis their own devices to conduct the negotiations between themselves at a time when it should have assumed the role of arbiter, in its capacity as the principal sponsor of the peace process. He pointed out that the absence of American direct intervention in the negotiations will only lead to prolonging them and to minimizing the completion of the necessary stages in the peace process as a whole....

Abu al-Adib said that the United States could settle the question of Hebron by invoking the provisions of the Oslo Accord, which provide for Israeli withdrawal and Israeli forces' redeployment in respect of seven of the West Bank towns including Hebron.

Al-Za'nun accused Israel of giving in to the settlers and the religious centers and said that the new issues Israel has been inventing, the latest of which being that of the town of Hebron, were not contained in the Oslo Accord and that because of its submission to the extremists, Israel has created in Hebron a problem akin to that of Jerusalem. Al-Za'nun categorically rejected any deferment or postponement of the question of Hebron until the final stage, as has happened in the case of Jerusalem, saying that the Oslo Accord did not provide for such deferment in regard to Hebron and confined deferment to the question of Jerusalem only.

Abu al-Adib said that he has held important talks with a number of American congressmen and senior Congress officials headed by Bob Dole, the leader of the majority, with a view to urging the American side to increase its effectiveness and widen its intervention in the faltering negotiations and to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli side, which has been the cause for the present impediment in the negotiations.

Abu al-Adib pointed out to the American side that the Oslo Accord was in line with the UN Palestine Partition Resolution No. 181 for the year 1947, which provided for the provisional internationalization of Jerusalem, that is, not being under Arab or Israeli sovereignty, pending the resolution of the status of Jerusalem at a later date...and that he stressed to the American side the need for honoring the resolution in support of which the United States amassed a great deal of votes at the time.

Al-Za'nun said that it was the intention of the American side "not to fall under the influence of the Likud instigation, so that the positions the U.S. Administration has taken since 1947 up to the present would not be compromised." He said that he has expressed to the

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Americans his appreciation of their opposition to the transfer of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and of their insistence on the implementation of UN Resolution No. 242.

In his first meeting with representatives of the American legislative authority, Al-Za'nun has stressed the demand that America should bring pressure to bear on Israel to force it to abide by the Declaration of Principles and not confine itself to a reconciliatory role only.

Abu al-Adib criticized the Libyan authorities' decision to expel Palestinians from its territory saying that this action was not a studied one and has been carried out without due consideration to its grave repercussions not only on the PNA but also on the PLO and the Palestinian people as a whole.

Abu-al-Adib warned the Libyan authorities against persisting with their expulsion of the Palestinians saying: We find ourselves obliged to submit this matter to the International Parliamentary Union, which will be meeting in Bucharest on 9 October. He added that a memorandum has been submitted to the Arab Parliamentary Union requesting it to intercede with the Libyan Authorities.

Abu-al-Adib pointed out that this decision by the Libyan Authorities will have serious repercussionsin regard to the Palestinians in Lebanon and foreign countries, which will emulate this Libyan precedent. He pointed out that a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi has visited Libya but has received no response — a fact which indicates the existence of an grave on-going plan.

Islamic Committee Restates Position on Hebron

JN1909150595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Islamic Committee today issued a statement against the backdrop of the tragic situation in Hebron. In its statement, the committee stresses its firm position on the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. The statement says that the mosque is an exclusive Islamic place of worship built by the Muslims. The committee says that this Islamic ruling is unchangeable and nonnegotiable. The Higher Islamic Committee urged all governments, states, and bodies to pressure Israel to abide by international norms, regulations, and laws which deem the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and Hebron an occupied territory from which the occupation troops must withdraw just like the rest of occupied territories.

Mayor on Israeli Position on Hebron Issue

JN1909151395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Interview with Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah by 'Arif Salim after al-Natshah's consultations in Taba with Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat; from the "Today's Events" feature; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Natshah] As a matter of fact, I was a member of a Hebron delegation that had consultations with brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The Palestinian negotiating team is headed by brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. Up until 17 September, there was no progress to speak of. Nonetheless, the Israeli side submitted a paper yesterday, stipulating that there will be a redeployment in Hebron similar to that which will be conducted in the rest of the West Bank cities. The Israeli side asked that special security arrangements be implemented for settlers.

[Salim] Are the arrangements in question interim measures?

[Al-Natshah] Of course, they are all interim measures. These arrangements will not undermine the Palestinian security jurisdiction over the entire city. The Israeli side agreed to evacuate the al-'Amarah Complex and hand it over to the Palestinian police.

[Salim] So, the Israeli side acknowledged that Hebron, just like other Palestinian cities, is Palestinian territory?

[Al-Natshah] This was enshrined in the latest paper submitted by the Israeli side. There are still outstanding issues between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. They will be debated. As a matter of fact, they might have been discussed one hour ago.

[Salim] Can you tell us about these issues?

[Al-Natshah] As a matter of fact, I am not privy to the nitty- gritty of these issues, because I was not a member of the negotiating team. We have only offered advice to brother President Abu-'Ammar in this regard. We made our views clear to the brother president in all frankness.

[Salim] Can you tell us your opinion regarding the Hebron issue?

[Al-Natshah] We are of the opinion that Hebron is an Arab city that must be under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority, and that there must be a redeployment of Israeli troops there, as will be the case in the rest of the West Bank cities. Moreover, we believe that settlement activities are illegal. Consequently, we demand the evacuation of

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settlers from the city. Furthermore, the holy Ibrahimi Mosque has been a purely Islamic house of God for the past 1,300 years. Hence, we reject all the Israeli measures taken since the occupation of the city in 1967. We demand that the control of the mosque be returned to the Palestinian Authority. We believe that all the measures taken in the city are null and void, because they were forced by the occupation troops.

The Israelis raised the issue of normalization in the city. Our response is that once the Palestinian National Authority takes over the city, things will be one hundred percent normal. We do not want to get into labyrinths over the opening or closure of this or that street, and so forth and so on. We want the city to be under Palestinian control. We want all alleyways, streets, the central vegetable market, the central bus terminal, the Martyrs Street, and the Ibrahimi Mosque to be open and under Palestinian control. This is how true normalcy would be brought to the city.

[Salim] What was the president's response to the advice you offered?

[Al-Natshah] The brother president is extremely responsive to our ideas and views. But, as you must be well aware, these are political negotiations. One does not always obtain whatever one hopes for.

[Salim] So, you have authorized his excellency the president to decide this issue.

[Al-Natshah] Yes, of course.

[Salim] At the end of this interview, I would like to thank Hebron Mayor Engineer Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah very much.

[Al-Natshah] You are most welcome. Thank you.

Shari'ah Official Orders Occupation of Hebron Home

TA1809111095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Qadi Taysir Tamimi, head of the Hebron shari'ah court, has issued a religious ruling requiring Arab owners of abandoned property in the old city of Hebron to occupy this property, stipulating that if they fail to do so, the national institutions in Hebron are entitled to take over the property and renovate it. The ruling is aimed at preventing Jews from seizing such properties. This has been reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Factions: Settlers Threaten Security of Palestinians

JN1809172695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 18 Sep (SANA) — The Unified Central Command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have warned that the living and security conditions of Palestinian citizens in the city of Hebron and the West Bank could be aggravated as a result of the attacks of the Israeli settlers and teams and in light of the complicity of the occupation authorities.

In a press release circulated here today, an official spokesman for the Unified Central Command of the DFLP and PFLP said the presence of the extremist Israeli settlers in Hebron and the occupied West Bank will open the door to more crimes and attacks by the settlers against Palestinians.

The spokesman called on the Arab League and the United Nations to intervene to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which stipulate full Israeli withdrawal from the 1967-occupied Arab territories.

Fatah, FIDA Call On Councils To Resign

JN2009083995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement's Higher Committee in the occupied Palestinian territories and the command of the Palestinian Democratic Union Party, FIDA, have issued a joint statement calling on all municipal councils appointed by the occupation authorities to immediately tender their resignation to allow the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] to reorganize them in accordance with the Palestinian people's free and independent will.

Fatah Movement's Higher Committee and FIDA representatives studied the proposed parties draft law and asked the PA to extend the period given for its discussion by at least three months.

Fatah Replacing West Bank Mayors, Council Members

TA1809115495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Fatah activists in the Hebron area have been threatening and exerting heavy pressure on Acting Dura Mayor 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hajah and

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town council members who refuse to comply with their demand to quit their positions. The struggle to control the town has been heating up in recent days. Palestinian officials are worried about an outbreak of violence, which could include exchanges of fire, in the town.

The Palestinian Authority's [PA] Local Government Ministry intends to appoint an ad hoc committee, made up of three retired senior officials, in Dura, as it did in Yattah and Janin. At this point, the dispute has been referred to Yasir 'Arafat.

Nevertheless, in time, the Local Government Ministry plans to replace all municipal leaders with young, educated people.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 18 September reports that "a temporary council in charge of municipal affairs will start operating in Janin today. It will be headed by Fatah activist Walid Abu-Muways, who will replace Mayor 'Abdallah Lahluh, who is resigning."]

Members of the Fatah leadership committee in the Hebron area, including Muhammad Hurani and Amin al-Ja'bari, visited al-Hajah's office a few days ago and demanded that he leave his job, but he refused to do so. Al-Hajah claims to have told them: "This is my town. There is nobody here who deserves to be mayor more than me. I will not resign."

Fatah activists accuse al-Hajah, known to be staunchly pro-Jordanian, of collaborating with Israel. Israeli and Palestinian sources deny this allegation, however. [passage omitted]

A week ago, the Israeli Civil Administration handed over powers for local authorities to the PA's Local Government Ministry. The ministry had already targeted several locations where it felt the town councils must be replaced because their members were suspected of collaborating with Israel. These included Janin, Qalqilyah, Yattah, and Dura, as well as the Silat al-Zahr rural council in the Janin area.

Fatah's supreme committee in the West Bank, headed by Marwan al- Barghuthi, is scheduled to hold a march toward the municipality building in Janin today. According to the plans, the Palestinian flag will be hoisted atop the building and an ad hoc committee will be appointed to run the city until elections are held.

According to Palestinian sources, a secret and unwritten agreement about this replacement was reached with the Civil Administration in the negotiations on the transfer of powers in this area. All mayors of the aforementioned towns, except for Dura, left their jobs, and some of them even moved to Israel. Palestinian sources noted that before leaving, they spent huge sums of money on dubious expenses, such as "entertainment," and left the coffers empty. [passage omitted]

Sources in the Local Government Ministry claim that a vacuum has been created in the West Bank, as the Israeli authorities are in the process of leaving while the Palestinian authorities have not yet entered the area in full force. According to them, this is the reason for the problems, such as those in Dura.

Al-Faluji: 'Arafat To Achieve Nothing at Taba

TA1809121295 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Efrayim Davidi in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "I wish Yasir 'Arafat luck in the Taba talks, but in my opinion he will achieve nothing," Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader 'Imad al-Faluji stated last night in a talk with this DAVAR correspondent. Al-Faluji added that Hamas has "always honored the achievements attained after the Oslo accords, as it will honor achievements ensuing from additional agreements. In our opinion, however, all those achievements will be worth nothing if we do not attain national independence, a goal which appears farther away than ever today."

Al-Faluji was speaking to a group of Palestinian and Israeli journalists who participated in a joint seminar in Gaza. He added that "if we thought Yasir 'Arafat, through the negotiations with Israel, could attain the independent state we need, the withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the dismantling of the settlements, and recognition of East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, then we would support him. But that is not the case."

Replying to a question, al-Faluji said: "Since the Oslo accord our position has been clear: We are for peace, because the entire Palestinian people is in favor of peace." At the same time, al- Faluji added, "before the Oslo accord was signed, we proposed the only peace plan that could bring peace: a cease-fire in exchange for the IDF's withdrawal from the territories and East Jerusalem, disbanding the settlements, and establishing an independent Palestinian state. Any other solution is out of the question," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Fatah Says Oslo Agreement Reaches 'Dead End'

MM1909155495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah stressed that the Oslo agreement has

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reached a dead end after two years of arduous negotiations. Fatah said that, if an agreement is reached during the current negotiations, the concessions imposed on the Palestinian side would only add to the injustice, as was the case with the Cairo agreement. Fatah stressed in its main bulletin that current events will cause a bigger rift among Palestinians and will make them fall into the Israeli trap of discriminating between those inside and those outside [the homeland]. This would not lead to stability or peace but, instead, to an internal and external Palestinian conflict. Fatah, the biggest faction in the PLO, listed the negotiations' phases, from their secret start in Oslo up until the signing of the agreement. It said that despite the fact that the signing in Washington was a historical and dangerous stunt because of the mystery in which the agreement is shrouded, two years after the negotiations matters are at a standstill and still very far from where they should be.

In its statement Fatah explained that the Israelis' adherence to the motto "no deadlines are sacred" meant that the agreement and its timetable are no longer valid. This has caused the Oslo agreement to lose its credibility. What is being negotiated at present is not the Oslo agreement but an Israeli deviation and delaying tactic that imposes surrender on the [Palestinian] National Authority [PA], bearing in mind the current balances of power.

Fatah warned of the potential dangers of the concessions that the PA could offer. It added: "It has now become clear that Rabin's acceptance of dealing with the PLO, as per the Oslo agreement, aims at eliminating it for good." It stressed that "the PLO and its central institutions are now, two years after the Oslo agreement, in a state of fragmentation or total absence." Fatah also stated that for the first time the PA Council has become the authority to which all Palestinian people's daily affairs are referred now that the Executive Committee can no longer achieve a quorum for its meetings, as it is now split between those for, those against, and those who have reservations, as a result of the Oslo agreement.

Fatah has also disclosed that the PLO Political Department, which is responsible for external affairs on behalf of the PA according to the Oslo agreement, has become a burden to the "Zionist-oriented Oslo agreement group" whose aim is to eliminate any hopes of developing the PA toward the stage of an independent Palestinian state.

Fatah warned that the Political Department is bankrupt and in a state of financial starvation, almost to the point of mendicancy.

Observers in Tunis believe that the Fatah statement has, for the first time, disclosed very serious issues concerning the concessions offered by the PA since its foundation. It also shows a new position on the Oslo agreement, in addition to its clear support of Faruq Qaddumi, secretary of the Fatah Central Committee.

Commentary Against Israeli Generals' Role in Taba

JN1909203195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1925 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Commentary by the political editor of the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA]

[FBIS Translated Text] They say that progress was made in Taba and that the agenda of talks throughout the past two days focused on the most difficult topic in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations — that is the problem of Hebron.

Regardless of the degree of success made in the negotiations on the issue of Hebron, we have to admit that the Israelis were able to corner the Palestinian negotiator in discussing one issue that concerned and confused him. Hebron has never been a point of contention or disagreement in which doubt is cast on its irreversible link with all West Bank cities in which redeployment will take place in preparation for elections.

President Yasir 'Arafat arranged his papers well while he was heading for Taba. He was fully aware that the Israelis are waging a tough negotiations battle and not engaged in calm negotiations that pave the way for the peace process. While he was on his way to Gaza to meet with the Japanese Prime Minister, and then while returning to Taba to resume negotiations with Peres, the president was aware that the subject is not only one of Israeli intransigence that is met by Palestinian adherence to its position, but the game went beyond its principles and crossed its lines to become one of imposing the will of the Israeli generals over Israeli diplomacy, and subsequently on the Palestinians and the whole peace process so that this process will be on the verge of collapse.

On this basis, the concern of the Palestinian negotiator has been, and continues to be, that Hebron will not become a distorted path that governs the negotiations on the final status, and that the Hebron knot will not be the beginning of retreats on agreements that had been signed in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo. He is also concerned that all agreements prior to the Hebron issue will become invalid, and that negotiations will start after the Hebron agreement or on the basis of what the Israelis present.

We believe that the past few days witnessed a glorious Palestinian fight in the face of this Israeli exploitation

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of the balance of power, the status quo, and the noninterference of the cosponsors, particularly the U.S. sponsor, to exert pressure to implement the accords and to abide by the topics of the talks, not to create new complicated issues as they are doing with the issue of Hebron.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] led the negotiating delegation with the firmness of an unyielding fighter who knows where to set his feet. Prior to that, he contacted, talked with, and telephoned — from his office in Gaza — all those concerned in Cairo, Washington, and other capitals with the aim of confronting the pressure of the generals, who have constituted a serious phenomenon in Israel. We do not have enough time here to analyze this phenomenon. The most important thing, in Abu-'Ammar's view, is not to turn Hebron into an area which will take us back to the beginning, or into a controversial issue with the aim of dropping Jerusalem from the account. If Hebron continues to take all this, what will Jerusalem take?

The circles of the negotiating Palestinian delegation say that the progress being achieved on the tough negotiating front in Taba is not sufficient. However, in all cases, some progress is being achieved, such as increasing the number of the armed Palestinian police, charging the Palestinian police with the mission of guarding the Ibrahimi mosque, and accepting the deployment of the Israeli Army, in addition to what the talks will produce after a few hours to provide or not to provide the opportunity to catch the plane heading for Washington even at a late time on 21 September.

President 'Arafat succeeded, through his firmness and steadfastness, in drawing the attention of the White House to what is taking place on the Taba front. He was able to involve it in many details of the talks. The White House is concerned about the date of 21 September, and the matter is not that of countdown inasmuch as it is a matter of a destructive waste of time which, perhaps, would lead to the collapse of the entire peace process.

Hamas Source Denies Agreement Reached With PA

TA1909145895 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — A responsible Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] source has stated that what AFP cited from AL-AHRAM WEEKLY on the existence of a draft agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA] is unfounded.

The source affirmed that Hamas still adheres to its position with regard to resisting the Israeli occupation wherever it may be and that Hamas' hands are always extended to all honorable people in the PA in order to launch an open, national, and comprehensive dialogue without preconditions.

The source added that there are attempts by several Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic sides to bring the views of Hamas and the PA closer. The aim is to reach agreement on a joint formula of understanding that would spare the Palestinian people any crossing of red lines.

The source stressed that Hamas and Fatah maintain good relations and that there are no disagreements between them. He added that the required dialogue is one between Hamas and the PA, not between Hamas and Fatah, although dialogue between all forces is vital and necessary.

The source called on AFP to be accurate and investigate the facts, instead of being influenced by rumors and allegations.

Hamas Split on Decision To Replace Abu-Marzuq

TA1909141395 Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 15 Sep 95 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ISTIQLAL has learned that extensive discussions are taking place these days within leading circles in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to appoint a replacement for Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who is under detention in the United States, to head the movement's political bureau.

One of the movement's two factions believes that choosing a replacement for Dr. Abu-Marzuq will diminish the importance of the card held by the United States. This faction's view is also supported by the fact that Dr. Abu-Marzuq's term as head of the political bureau will end this year, whereas the other faction believes in the need to wait and follow up on the detention case.

Among the candidates for this post were Khalid Mash'al, Muhammad Nazzal, and 'Imad al-'Alami. In the end it was agreed that brother Khalid Mash'al would assume the leadership of Hamas, as acting head of the political bureau or as its deputy head, in the absence of brother Musa Abu-Marzuq.

Khalid Mash'al is in his 30's, married, and has six children.

PA Minister Sha'th Calls For Release of Prisoners

BR2009104795 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 17 Sep 95 p 24

[Report by Lumena Zaposo: "Call for Release of Prisoners"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] When he was in Gaza, DIARIO DE NOTICIAS met with Nabil

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Sha'th, who was available for a short interview while his family and a group of friends were waiting for him for lunch. [passage omitted] When asked about the state of negotiations concerning the Palestinian prisoners, an issue which is his responsibility, [Palestinian National Authority Minister for International Cooperation] Nabil Sha'th stated: "There are still more than 5,000 political prisoners, including many elderly, youths less than 16 years old, and some sick people. I cannot say for sure that torture is practiced in the Israeli prisons, but life is very hard, and in the Beersheba prison three quarters of the prisoners are in solitary confinement."

For Sha'th the important thing is that the 5,000 prisoners, "of whom only 267 have actually killed Israelis, and most of them in open combat," should be freed. He explained why this was such a pressing issue: "They feel very bitter. They were heroes of the resistance, but now that we have a peace agreement with the Israelis they are being held as if they were common criminals."

He continued with unconcealed bitterness: "It is not fair. They were carrying out the orders of 'Arafat to resist the occupation, just as the Israeli soldiers were carrying out Rabin's orders to repress the resistance, and now we are living in liberty and they are not."

Given his role in the Palestinian National Authority, one question naturally arose: cooperation between Portugal and Palestine. Sha'th tried to avoid the question and said that "since democracy came to Portugal the Portuguese have shown themselves to be good friends toward the Palestinian people and cause." He stressed: "President Soares is a good friend of 'Arafat and their friendship goes back decades, and we are still looking forward to his visit which we hope will be very soon."

We insisted: What about cooperation? "There is some aid, but not much. Portugal contributes in the framework of European cooperation alongside its own, small aid program. We would like to receive some technological aid, and perhaps establish joint projects in the tourist industry." He quickly changed the subject, showing his primary concern: "You know, I think that there is something that the Portuguese Government can do for us right now: It can help us by calling for the release of our prisoners."

Border Official Reacts to Closure of Gaza

JN2009073495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces imposed an indefinite military closure on the Gaza Strip as of dawn today. Colonel Radwan Abu-al-Qumsan, official in charge of the Erez crossing, said the Israelis had imposed a closure on the Gaza Strip and informed the Palestinian side of this decision without giving any reason or justification for this measure. Colonel Abu-al-Qumsan rejected this measure and said that it harms all aspects of daily life, especially the economy. In statements to Voice of Palestine, Colonel Abu-al-Qumsan added that at dawn today, the Palestinian side asked the Israeli side to provide the reasons and motives for this military closure.

'Arafat Receives Japanese Prime Minister in Gaza

JN1809125995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and Japanese aid to the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] were the main topics his Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama discussed in their meeting at the Presidency in Gaza this morning. The two sides discussed the obstacles hampering the conclusion of an agreement on implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. They also discussed Palestinian-Japanese relations and joint cooperation, in addition to Japan's role in pushing the peace process forward, and offering assistance to the PA.

President 'Arafat described his talks with Murayama as positive, constructive, and amicable. The president thanked Japan for the assistance it gives to the Palestinian people to build their infrastructure which the occupation destroyed. The president also thanked the Japanese Government for any future assistance, whether technical, economic, or in other fields.

President 'Arafat said he hopes the Palestinian and Israeli sides will reach an agreement. He explained that the Hebron issue is the major outstanding issue in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He said everything depends on what the Israeli side will propose with respect to dealing with Hebron as the other Palestinian cities, particularly that it is the biggest Palestinian city.

Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, who attended the meeting, said that Murayama promised to give $200 million directly to the PA to be used for infrastructure purposes, particularly in the field of education, energy, sewerage, and the preparation of Palestinian cadres, and for certain industrial projects.

Japan also agreed to participate in the international supervision of Palestinian legislative elections that will be held in the future.

President 'Arafat welcomed Murayama at the al-Sudaniyah area north of the city of Gaza. Upon their

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arrival at the presidency in Gaza, the Palestinian and Japanese national anthems were played.

Menawhile, the PA Council of Ministers is currently holding its weekly session at the Presidency in Gaza under President Yasir 'Arafat. The council will discuss and assess the results of the Taba negotiations.

President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister will meet in Taba this evening to resume their talks.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Negotiations Continue; 'Crisis' Averted

'Arafat-Peres Morning Session Ends

NC1909152495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA) — The morning session of talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres concluded in Taba this afternoon.

Peres refrained from making a statement after the three-hour session. According to Palestinian and Israeli sources, Peres headed for Elat to brief Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the talks.

Palestinian and Israeli sources have said that the talks focused on marking the locations to which the Israeli troops will withdraw on maps.

The sources believe that security arrangements in Hebron still represent the major obstacle hindering a breakthrough in negotiations, in spite of the statement the spokesman of the Palestinian delegation, Marwan Kanafani, made this morning, when he said that some progress was made concerning the situation in Hebron.

Kanafani said at a news conference in Taba at dawn today that some progress was made concerning the status of Hebron. We have to be cautious when it comes to discussing details, he said.

Kanafani pointed out that this was the first time the Israelis talked about redeployment rather than partial withdrawal from the city.

Only a quarter of an hour after his first statement, Kanafani warned that Taba negotiations will encounter a crisis if they continued in the same manner without making any progress.

He said that the two sides were discussing a joint working paper on the points of agreement and disagreement on Hebron. He pointed out that no progress was made on the issue of electricity and that the Israeli electricity minister offered nothing new, apart from his old offer: joint Palestinian-Israeli control on one third of the West Bank energy and Israel's control on the remaining two thirds.

'Arafat and Peres are expected to resume their talks in Taba later this evening.

'Arafat Aide Kanafani Views Talks

JN1909144695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by 'Arif Salim, in the studio, from "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] With us on the line is Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman. Brother Marwan, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening to you, brother 'Arif.

[Salim] What about the latest developments in the negotiations? Has the countdown for the initialing of the agreement begun?

[Kanafani] I cannot dare say this. The situation is still as it was at dawn today. The Israeli paper which was submitted is better than the two previous papers. There is almost approval of the redeployment in Hebron, just like other Palestinian cities. There is also a clearer view of the special temporary arrangements for the settlers in Hebron. We are now discussing details and issues on which we do not see eye to eye with the Israeli side. As I told you yesterday, these issues are quite substantial and there are wide gaps. In addition, we are discussing other issues, including the prisoners, electricity, and others. I think that discussions will continue tonight as well.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, the issue of Hebron remains the hottest and most important issue. Have the Israelis presented any positive views today?

[Kanafani] There are new Israeli ideas, which are better than the previous ideas. However, these fall short of Palestinian demands. President 'Arafat is personally leading the negotiations now on the issue of Hebron to fill these gaps if possible.

[Salim] What are positive aspects of the Israeli stance?

[Kanafani] I would like to repeat that these points are better than the previous plans and have to do with recognizing redeployment, jurisdiction, temporary arrangements for the settlers, and handing over government buildings to the Palestinian side. So, these points have to do with issues which the Palestinian side set as a condition for continued negotiations on the agreement.

[Salim] We go back to the question of redeployment in its larger form in Palestinian cities and villages in

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Zones A and B. Regarding Zone C, has this zone been defined? We fear, for example, that if this zone is left without definition, the settlements could expand in the future.

[Kanafani] Brother 'Arif, I am not one of those who support...[pauses] I am accused by the Israeli press and officials of not giving an optimistic view all the time, as I am supposed to do. But the truth is that the Palestinian side can never miss such points. I assure you that over the past four days, I saw full commitment, great care, and an approach which cannot be doubted. The Palestinian side insists on all details and adheres to its firm positions. The Palestinian team continued to discuss matters until the wee hours of the morning. I do not think that anyone can draw the attention of the Palestinian side to any issues which it is experiencing firsthand and negotiating about every minute. I am fully confident that the negotiating team, led by the president, is doing all that is humanly possible to maintain the basic principles and Palestinian demands.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, what about the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the framework of this agreement?

[Kanafani] My previous answer covers this issue. The Palestinian delegation will not leave out anything, including the freedom of movement, timetables, jurisdiction, prisoners, Palestinian firms, and other civilian issues. We will try to reach an honorable agreement on these issues to mark the beginning of the establishment of an independent state, God willing. Perhaps,... [less than minute break in phone call]

[Salim] Brother Marwan, we were talking about details not left out by the Palestinian negotiator in the Taba talks. Another question regarding the Thursday deadline. It seems unlikely to sign the agreement on Thursday.

[Kanafani] I read today in the Israeli and American press, and we also think that the signing on Friday, and not Thursday, is almost impossible. However, if we reach an agreement, we will try to sign it as soon as possible. If this is not possible, then the date for signing the agreement will be somewhat delayed. There are many issues which the Palestinian side insists must be finished and agreed upon in detail so we will not commit the same mistakes that occurred in previous agreements. You know that the Israeli side is not known for its commitment to the implementation of what has been agreed upon, let alone issues which are left for the future. We have prior experience. We know that the size of Jericho was not studied, while this issue should have been reviewed within three months. We know that the safe passage did not materialize despite the promises. There is prior experience, which prompts the president and the Israeli delegation to finalize all details and not delay them. This is one of the reasons. Until this very minute, there is no guarantee that the negotiations will not collapse and fail. They might also succeed. Everything depends on the Israeli position on the major issues proposed by the Palestinian side.

[Salim] So the ball is now in the Israeli court.

[Kanafani] If they want an agreement.

[Salim] We still adhere to our principles on the major and strategic issues that affect our destiny as a nation and a people.

[Kanafani] This I can promise.

[Salim] Thank you Brother Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

Agreement Reached on Redeployment in Hebron

NC1909154795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Israeli delegations at the Palestinian-Israeli talks which resumed in Taba today said they reached agreement on the Israeli forces' redeployment in Hebron in the occupied West Bank. They added that special security arrangements have been devised to protect 400 Jewish settlers in the city living among more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Still there are other issues under discussion by the two sides, especially electricity.

Israeli Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal said there is a disagreement on Palestinian detainees. The Palestinian side insists on a commitment to release the detainees but Israel is strongly opposed to this.

[In a related Gaza-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1425 GMT on 19 Sep says the following: "MENA's correspondent has learned that tonight's meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will be crucial. He learned that a transitional agreement on expanding self-rule powers in the West Bank and the Israeli forces' redeployment outside the cities, including Hebron, is expected to be initialed tonight if Israel accepts the Palestinian side's proposal on the final status of the city.

["According to information coming from Palestinian sources close to the negotiations, final signing of the agreement in Washington on the set date, Thursday, is unlikely. The signing might take place on Friday or Saturday.

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["According to this information, the Israeli negotiating delegation left Taba for Israel at 1500, 1600 Cairo time, today for further consultations with the Israeli Government. Shim'on Peres stayed in Taba and held a series of contacts with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

["MENA's correspondent has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was in continuous contact with Cairo yesterday and today. Yesterday he contacted Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and briefed them on the development of talks with the Israeli side."]

Peres Says Negotiations 'Hard'

TA1909162695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon returning to his Taba hotel, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he has a hard feeling and that the negotiations are hard. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the foreign minister returned to the Taba hotel a short while ago, and is slated to hold another meeting with 'Arafat. He noted that the negotiations are focusing on the Hebron issue and on outlining the map. The foreign minister said he could not tell whether the agreement would be signed today. The foreign minister is currently meeting with family members of four Israelis who were murdered by terrorists.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal says that if Palestinian prisoners who murdered Jews are released, he will insist on the principle of reciprocity and will demand the release of Israelis who perpetrated similar crimes. This is reported by our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky. Minister Shahal noted that Israel has decided to apply the rule of reducing a third of the prison term for good conduct also to Palestinian prisoners.

Israeli Sources: Talks in Final Stage

NC1909164095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA)—Sources in the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks have reported that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank have reached their final stage. The remaining points pertain to Hebron and the electricity issue, in addition to confidence-building measures including the release of Palestinian detainees.

The sources, which are close to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, told MENA that during the morning session a comprehensive review was made of the remaining unresolved points, particularly in connection with the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron and specifying their new deployment points on the maps. The sources said that the two delegations devoted a lot of time to studying the maps in question.

They added that Shim'on Peres will consult from Elat with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and will also hold a meeting with the members of his own delegation before returning to Taba sometime this evening to continue his talks with President 'Arafat.

Palestinians Walk Out of Taba Talks

NC1909182795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer 'Awn] We have just received this urgent report: The Palestinian delegation has walked out of negotiations with the Israelis a few moments ago.

Our correspondent in Taba Walid al-'Umari is on the phone with us.

['Awn] Walid, what is the latest?

[Al-'Umari] The latest is that the Palestinian delegation walked out of negotiations in Taba a few minutes ago because of the map the Israelis proposed concerning redeployment in the West Bank. The Palestinian side, particularly President 'Arafat, viewed this map as tantamount to tearing the Palestinian body apart. Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, is with us here. He will explain the situation further.

['Awn] Okay Walid.

[Abu-Middayn] Good evening.

['Awn] Mr. Furayh; good evening. What happened today in Taba?

[Abu-Middayn] In fact, it is the bad intentions we have always talked about. The Israelis want to offer an unviable solution in the West Bank. This is clear from the maps that tore the West Bank apart. The cities, villages, and camps are so scattered that you cannot connect one village to the other. You cannot even link one road to another. This map is impossible to apply. Hence, it is not possible to keep up this process. The occupation existing today might be easier and more feasible for the Palestinian citizen than drawing a map for the West Bank in which the Palestinian citizen cannot lead a normal life.

This has led the Palestinian delegation... [pauses] President 'Arafat decided that this process in its entirety must be boycotted until things are rectified. Otherwise,

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we will not accept an agreement that cannot be implemented in reality.

['Awn] Thank you Mr. Abu-Middayn.

Egyptians Intervene To Save Talks

JN1909193395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest reports from Taba said a short while ago that the Egyptians are now exerting continuous efforts to resume the Palestinian-Israeli talks which stopped this evening following President Yasir 'Arafat's walkout from the talks in protest of the maps presented by the Israeli delegation.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, a member of the Palestinian delegation said that the plan is the most dangerous plan presented by the Israelis since the beginning of the peace process. The member of the Palestinian delegation added that the plan is in full contradiction with the provisions of the Declaration of Principles regarding the geographical unity of the Palestinian territory.

'Arafat, Peres Expected To Meet Again

TA1909191895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A crisis emerged in the Taba talks this evening, with the Palestinian delegation's spokesmen hinting that the contacts might stop and each side would return home, but it has just been learned that the Egyptians have entered the picture and that Peres and 'Arafat are expected to hold another meeting in a short while. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's spokesman, announced that the Palestinian delegation members, led by 'Arafat, angrily left the meeting this evening and that major difficulties surfaced after Israel presented maps which, in their opinion, create separate cantons in a manner which prevents territorial continuity between the areas which will be transferred to the Palestinians' control. Upon leaving the meeting 'Arafat talked of Israel's leading the Palestinians astray.

Signs of 'Slight Detente' in Crisis Reported

NC1909212495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2109 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA)— Signs of a slight detente in the crisis that occurred during the evening round of talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have emerged.

'Arafat's Spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah has told MENA that President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross have made contacts with the two sides to bring their views closer and rescue the talks.

'Arafat is expected to meet with Peres shortly.

'Arafat had earlier decided to walk out of the negotiations and expressed his anger at the maps the Israeli side presented concerning their plan for withdrawal from Hebron.

'Arafat Spokesman Kanafani on 'Crisis'

JN1909194895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1906 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Regarding the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba, we have with us from Taba Hanadi al-Imam to speak about this issue.

[Begin recording] [Announcer 'Arif Salim] Hanadi: Good evening.

[Al-Imam] Good evening.

[Salim] What about the latest developments? What has happened?

[Al-Imam] President Yasir 'Arafat walked out of the talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at 1925 today to protest the maps submitted by the Israeli delegation, which divide the West Bank into cantons. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, telephoned President 'Arafat. Uri Savir has just concluded a meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat. He learned that the meetings will be resumed after approximately two hours. We now have with us brother Marwan Kanafani, official spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat:

[Salim] Marwan, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Salim] What has happened in the negotiations?

[Kanafani] As Miss Hanadi said, the president walked out of the conference room obviously angry to show his disapproval of what was going on, particularly with regard to the maps submitted. While in his hotel suite, he was telephoned by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, by the U.S. secretary of state, and also by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. They also spoke with the other side. They asked the president to await the outcome of their contacts. Meanwhile, the Israeli delegation contacted us. It was agreed that the positions

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conveyed to us will be reconsidered, and that President Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres will meet within one and a half hours. It is our hope that this Israeli position will not obstruct all the efforts made over the past three or four days so that we may reach a solution to this issue.

[Salim] Marwan, what do the maps presented by the Israeli delegation signify?

[Kanafani] When we speak about the maps, we talk about full Israeli redeployment that ensures the integrity of Palestinian land. The Israeli maps that were presented to the Palestinian side do not reflect this.

[Salim] Do you expect a positive move from the Israeli delegation?

[Kanafani] Yes, if this important principle was reconsidered.

[Salim] What if you do not return to the negotiations?

[Kanafani] We hope this will not happen, because everybody will lose as a result.

[Salim] So the negotiations are going through a difficult time tonight?

[Kanafani] They are going through a stage in which total failure was about to be announced.

[Salim] What is the new situation regarding Hebron? You have said...

[Kanafani, interrupting] This issue will be discussed again in the next meeting. As I told you, the Israeli paper that was presented yesterday is much more advanced than the previous paper, and we announced this yesterday. We consider this the beginning, and this means that we are cautiously optimistic because there is still a wide gap between the two positions. There are still many aspects regarding the issue of Hebron that must be addressed. This is in addition to other issues. Take, for example, the issue of redeployment in the West Bank in general. This issue almost finished off the negotiations. Therefore, we think that we should finalize everything and discuss all issues and details so that we will not be surprised, as happened today, by a different concept that could undermine the negotiating process.

[Salim] So meeting the deadline for signing the agreement in Washington is impossible?

[Kanafani] I think signing the agreement this week is not possible.

[Salim] When will the negotiations resume tonight?

[Kanafani] In an hour.

[Salim] Thank you Marwan and we hope to hear from you again.

[Kanafani] You are welcome. [end recording]

Israeli Sources Affirm 'Crisis' Contained

NC1909213895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA)— Sources in the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba have said that the crisis that emerged between the two sides earlier today has been contained.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a 20-minute meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The two sides are expected to resume negotiations.

Sources close to Shim'on Peres have told MENA that the crisis broke out at the beginning of the evening session, when the Israeli side presented the maps concerning deployment in the West Bank. The Palestinian side and 'Arafat objected, saying that the maps represent separate "cantons" and that there were no links between Palestinian cities.

The sources added that the Israeli foreign minister explained during his meeting with 'Arafat that Israel has no plans to establish cantons in the West Bank and that the Bank is divided into three areas temporarily during the second phase of implementing the Declaration of Principles and expanding self-rule.

The same sources said that there are new ideas concerning the maps which the Israeli side will submit at the expected meeting, since time is in neither party's favor and any delay would jeopardize the entire peace process.

Peres suggested during his meeting with 'Arafat that the West Bank map be studied at the meeting to be held shortly and then the issue of Hebron can be discussed.

Two other points have not been resolved yet. They are the issue of electricity and the timetable for releasing the Palestinian detainees, steps which the Israelis call confidence-building measures.

'Arafat, Peres Resume Negotiations

NC1909214395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres resumed their talks in Taba at midnight, following a three-hour interruption.

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The talks were interrupted when the Israeli delegation submitted maps for the West Bank which 'Arafat described as denoting unrelated cantons.

Sides Scheduled To Continue Talks

NC2009061595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0535 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators meeting under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended a round of talks on expanding Palestinian self-rule late last night. Peres said the negotiators have taken a big stride in the past four days and voiced his hope that they will finish discussing maps of the West Bank soon.

Sources close to the negotiations said the Israelis will present new maps of the West Bank in accordance with the agreement the two sides reached during last night's meetings. The two sides are scheduled to meet in Taba again today to discuss this issue further.

MENA has learned that if a final formula is reached on all the pending issues, they can finish formulating the agreement on Thursday [21 September], initial it, and then submit it to the Israeli Government and Palestinian Authority for approval before 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin leave for Washington for the signing ceremony. 'Arafat walked out of the talks yesterday when he objected to the maps Peres submitted on the West Bank, describing them as a form of unlinked cantons.

Israel Submits 'New' Hebron Offer

TA2009084895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Peres and 'Arafat will reconvene this morning to discuss the Hebron issue. Our special correspondent in Taba Shlomo Raz reports that Israel has handed the Palestinians a new proposal on the issue.

[Begin recording] [Raz] It is just possible that the negotiations will be concluded and an agreement initialed today. It is possible, despite the challenging day yesterday when the talks were on the verge of an explosion. Eventually, everyone calmed down.

[Peres] I think we have overcome the map crisis, although it does not mean that we have finished with the issue of maps. We have overcome the crisis, however. The Palestinian Authority chairman and I had a talk that settled the animosities. The two teams that deal with maps will work through the night to complete the work. Tonight we submitted a document on the Hebron issue, which we think satisfies both the Israeli needs and the expectations of others, including the Palestinians. I have a feeling that our positions are now closer, although nothing has been concluded as yet. I hope that, if everything progresses smoothly, the prime minister will be able to present an agreement to the cabinet this weekend or at the beginning of next week.

[Raz] The Hebron document mentioned by the foreign minister is, in fact, a new Israeli proposal that states, among other things, that the number of Palestinian policemen and Hebron municipality inspectors will be increased in the advanced stages of withdrawal from the city. [end recording]

Late last night, our correspondent Shlomo Raz spoke to Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Raz] Israel has already agreed to withdraw from Hebron in several stages, and the exact location of the bypass road is being established. On a grander scale, however, Israel has withdrawn its previous demand that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retain responsibility for overall security. If that is the situation, how will Israelis be able to lead a secure life there?

[Savir] First of all, I suggest that we wait and see what arrangement is made. In any event, we will never give up our right, vested upon us by the Declaration of Principles, to bear responsibility for the overall security of the Israelis. What we are trying to ensure is that the IDF attend to the Israelis' safety in their places of residence, and also that they be safe on roads through various solutions. At no point did we try to postpone the Hebron issue until the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Palestinians have refused to take over the postal authority, an agreement that was achieved in Cairo, and are also insisting on receiving the postal bank at once. Defense sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that under the agreement, the Palestinians should receive banking powers only after the redeployment. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 September publishes on pages 1 and 12 a report by special correspondent to Taba David Makovsky, adding: "There was also a bridging of differences on areas such as archaeology and holy sites, including Rachel's Tomb. On this point, Peres said: 'We agreed that Israel would have sole responsibility for the main road from Gilo that leads to Rachel's Tomb. We decided not to build a new bypass road, as this would involve too much expropriation of land from Arabs.'

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["Furthermore, it was agreed that the Palestinians would establish 25 police stations outside and apparently including municipal areas. An agreement was reached on how many police would serve at each station and that they can use rifles."]

Abu-Rudaynah on Resumption of Talks

NC2009095695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0915 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles resumed this morning. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, told MENA that it is difficult to speculate on the date for ending the negotiations and reaching an agreement. He said this depends on both sides reaching an agreement on the points of disagreement. He noted that the maps the Israeli side presented on the redeployment of the Israeli forces caused pessimism. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli committees will meet today to bring the parties' views closer. He voiced his hope that the Israeli party will come up with new maps and ideas to reach an agreement. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations faced a serious crisis yesterday because the Israeli side presented maps on the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside Palestinian cities and villages. President 'Arafat strongly rejected them and threatened to walk out because the maps turn the West Bank towns into what look like cantons.

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Algeria

Zeroual Gives Speech, Announces Candidacy

LD1909145295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Speech by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers on 19 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the noblest messenger. Citizens: Nearly two years ago I took the oath before you when I assumed my duties as head of state. That commitment as far as I am concerned was in response to the call of national duty in circumstances distinguished by the hesitation of some and the behavior of others — hesitation and behavior that strove to make doubt overcome hope with regard to the future of our homeland. By recently inviting you to participate in the election of the president of the Republic on 16 November next I have fixed the date of my task, leaving to you to exercise your popular sovereignty and to determine your fate in a direct manner. Today when I am addressing you once again I would like at the beginning of this speech to offer my sincere and warm praise to you all.

I address this praise to you all for your spirit of national commitment which you have and which despite all challenges and sacrifices creates within you an examplary duty-bound characteristic which you place daily at the service of our country. History will record that in this tragic crisis which Algeria is experiencing you are writing a new page of the national struggle — a page worthy of our righteous martyrs who left us this free and independent homeland. If today criminal violence has been confined and at the same time compelled to reveal all its savagery, then this is the fruit of your determination.

You the members of the army and the security forces; you the war veterans, who are once again ready to fulfil your national duty; you the cadres and workers who are devoted to your duty; you the Algerian women who are heroically combatting barbarism; you the citizens who have expressed your strong opposition to the destruction of your country; all of you have triumphed over the terrorism which tomorrow you will totally eradicate from the pure land of Algeria. Furthermore, if our country recovers it will be thanks to your mobilization, you the workers, cadres, intellectuals, and patriots from all professions.

You are the ones who have proved in the field, your capabilities in overcoming the destructive and blind greed, and in continuing to build the national future. Also if failure was the fate of all political maneuvers that aimed hopefully at subduing the Algerian republic through resort to violence, this failure is the fruits of your firm determination. The failure of other maneuvers which tried to seek foreign intervention in the affairs of our country is also the result of your unswerving steadfastness. Through this stand in the service of your country, men and women compatriots, you were the firmer and more encouraging support for all those who accepted with devotion at these difficult moments to steer the affairs of the homeland.

Therefore, in the name of the government and all the officials in state institutions and in my own name I express this genuine and deserving praise and I extend to you my deep gratitude.

Brothers and sisters; thanks to the glorious November Revolution the Algerian people was able to get rid of the calculations of the [state] apparatus and those with narrow outlooks in order to bring about the embodiment of the victory of its liberation struggle. But regrettably independent Algeria then experienced the return of the [state] apparatus, and the tribes — a return that gradually put paid to popular ambitions in favour of selfishness and exclusion. The tribal policy and selfishness and exclusion were severely condemned by you during the October 1988 incidents — painful incidents that gave birth to pluralist democracy in our country. The authentic pluralist democracy strives to put an end to nepotism and exclusion, and this made some of those who were hungry for power not hesitate to contain the Algerian pluralist democracy by resorting to maneuvering and demagogy, particularly through the violation of the Constitution and laws, and even by infringing upon our most sublime national values, including Islam, our true religion.

It is these very calculations and selfish feelings which have engendered a bloody crisis in our country, a crisis which they are nurturing and for which the Algerian people are paying a heavy price. Through these tragedies, our nation sees some of its children, who are often innocent people who have been deceived, being used against their homeland.

This crisis has also enabled the Algerian people to find out all those who have abandoned them, whether through their silence or their outbidding tactics. However, through the same crisis, the Algerian people in particular have managed to impose their voice once again on the national political arena. Thus they managed to make themselves heard clearly beyond our borders. This has made it imperative to give you back the direct choice through presidential elections.

In two months time, God's willing, you will have the opportunity for the first time and through multi-

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party and genuine democratic elections to choose the president of the republic. An independent national committee will watch over your right of free choice. International observers will also witness the truthfulness of your independent decision. All this will ensure the real victory of your will and will be a vital card to serve Algeria. Yet at the same time, it is for the Algerian people to achieve the most important thing: to build up the national future which embodies its true aspirations.

Citizens, Algeria has already attained important achievements which nobody can deny. However, our country has to continue developing these achievements, especially since many deviations have led to its capabilities being diverted from the right goal. We also have the duty of advancing our homeland, especially since our people have to finally overcome the destructive madness of some people, and also the obstructing maneuvers of some others, so that Algeria will totally free its vast energies and can wisely exploit its great capabilities. The generations of the liberation struggle paid a heavy duty to regain national independence. The present generations also must make other sacrifices to bring about a real and comprehensive national recovery. This is the necessary duty for building the Algeria which our righteous martyrs dreamed about. [passage omitted]

When stressing the sacrifices that ought to be made for the sake of the recovery of Algeria, the matter does not only concern the pure and innocent souls who are falling victims within the ranks of our people in all its social factions at the hands of the barbaric criminality. An end will finally be put to this criminality becuse the perpetrators have been totally isolated from our national society which without exception has become the target of their savage actions.

To talk about the sacrifices is to mention in particular the efforts that are expected of us all to guarantee the future permanently. To talk about the sacrifices and the efforts for the sake of national recovery is to acknowledge this action that you have embarked upon and which should be coupled with an increasing rigor and which should also be given the character of continuity.

Dear citizens: The Algerian state is making efforts for a large- scale cleanup and these efforts must be pursued in order to remove all the social ills within it and to eliminate the mentality of clans and nepotism and also to eliminate exclusion, which is the dangerous fruit of these things.

The phenomena of bribery, which is exhausting national resources, should be suppressed rigorously. The Algerian state should also deepen and intensify its role to serve the citizen to regain his/her trust completely; therefore, the state should rely more on capabilities and at the same time on a strict punishment for every deviation.

Furthermore, the bureaucratic practices require a reformation for our administration so the latter can be more open and can improve its relations with society. Justice should oversee with more commitment to ensure the right of every one and to impose rule of law on all people without discrimination.

However, pursuing these goals is, at the same time, an effective measure in extracting the seeds of despair from our society. A despair upon which the roots of vile crime have thrived.

Consolidating the state to serve the people also requires consolidating the multi-party democracy which should first of all liberate itself from the monopoly of the apparatus. Democracy would be sheer chaos if it was accompanied by slight abandonment of law and order. [passage omitted]

Through its glorious revolution, struggling Algeria developed the model of its own society as an independent nation. This model, which consecrates our national unity, is founded on a republican democracy and reflects our deep-rooted national identity in its three dimensions: Islamic, Arab, and Tamazight [Berber] identity. It is open to modernism, built on national solidarity and social justice. It is a model that requires our democracy to promote it through a dialogue which gives room for objection, but an objection emanating from national interest.

The strengthening of multi-party democracy is, above all, preserving this democracy within our national options, and within the inevitable respect for the constitution and the law, a respect that requires, first and foremost, the shunning of violence. Likewise, the reinforcing of democracy is a relentless action to retrieve national concord in the ranks of our people. It is also consecrating democracy through the election of the institutions of the republic so they all may reflect the sovereign choice of the Algerian people and be accountable to it. Finally, bolstering multi-party democracy within adherence to our national authentic options is the consecration of a permanent dialogue between the citizens and their state.

Dear citizens: The completion of the building of a strong state in the service of the people requires also the cleaning up of the economic and social system upon which the state is founded. The national economy, from which there is no distinction between the public and private sectors, must be given a fresh breath based on a more rational management and an increasing productivity.

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Therefore, the program of reforms which Algeria has embarked upon must be continued away from all demagogy, which ruins the country, and also away from all exclusion. Such exclusion is incompatible with our basic principles of national solidarity and social justice. Indeed, the oil wealth is not sufficient and will not last for ever. Furthermore, resorting to foreign loans cannot possibly be a solution to our economic problems.

In fact, Algeria is today facing an acute economic crisis because people were swayed by such illusions. Algeria must fully recover the virtues of self-reliance and work so that it can produce the necessary resources and materials to achieve and guarantee its own permanent prosperity.

Yes. It is our country's duty to adapt its economic and social endeavor to an integral three-part demand. [sentence as heard] The challenges facing national development make it imperative to overcome the legacy of the past and meet the needs of the present while preparing the requirements of the future. Therefore a steady development becomes a necessity for the national economy to enable it to fulfill the aspirations of our society of which youth constitutes the main element.

Indeed, dear citizens, our youth should be at the heart of our country's preoccupations through tangible and continuous measures to enable this section [of society] to take charge of itself. Opening productive employment to our youth and meeting its various needs is also aimed at extirpating the seeds of despair from our society.

Moreover, involving the youth, continuously and even further in the national debate and also entrusting it with responsibilities is mobilizing the vast potential of this youth in order to build the homeland; and it is also preparing the Algerian youth as of now to play its natural role tomorrow, namely the role of Algeria's heirs and its guardians. [passage omitted]

National culture is our history, which has to return to its legitimate source and the point of reference: Genuine Islam, which should always be glorified. Islam in which our ancestors believed and defended in far countries centuries ago.

National culture is also our Algerian identity, which should be promoted by the unity of the nation. A national identity in which the Tamazight is the base that has to be highlighted and the Arab Islamic civilization is an ancient gain for our nation that has to be enriched.

Likewise, national culture is also acquiring knowledge in our own school, which must be purely Algerian, a school removed from all political influence. Finally, national culture is our good traditions that must be revived — traditions of solidarity, of attachment to our collective property and protecting it from any transgression, traditions of efforts made in our action and cordiality within our society. This national authentic and indivisible culture is the one that will be the best shield for our people against all attempts to sow the seeds of sedition in its ranks. This same culture is the one that will be the real guarantor for our national authenticity in a modern world where domination has no boundaries whatsoever, a modern world that is witnessing continuous upheavals that require Algeria to defend its legitimate interests. Algeria also has a contribution to make in the service of the constant principles that characterize it.

Maghreban unity is part of the destiny of Algeria for which it must work with perseverance. Arab brotherhood and African solidarity will also remain part of our national priorities. Moreover, association with the European Union is an objective that Algeria is endeavoring to achieve in order to strengthen cooperation with this community, which is our traditional partner in the Mediterranean.

Finally, stability, peace, and cooperation are goals that Algeria is aiming to promote with all the nations.

These are some of the actions and ambitions that embody the break with the past that you are demanding, dear citizens. I am deeply convinced about the need for a break with the past, which will be based on changes aimed at achieving what is better while remaining loyal to our deep-rooted national values that have no substitute. Such a process is not a partisan option but an inevitable necessity in order to complete the national rectification that Algeria has started. This process is going to be a long-term action requiring efforts and sacrifices from everyone in order to meet all the challenges facing Algeria. I am convinced that this break [with past practices] will in fact be brought to completion because it is our national will. I am also fully persuaded that the sacrifices it requires will be borne because the Algerian people are every day offering exemplary evidence of its determination. The presidential elections will open an irreversible way before this process through your sovereign choice, but particularly through your genuine national mobilization.

Dear citizens, when I decided to resort to the presidential elections my sincere hope was that I would see our multi-party political class, rich with its difference, finally agree to get together in the face of your choice. Such a consensus would be an important achievement for multi-party democracy in our country, and also a basic step toward the national consensus for which I have exerted my efforts, and of which I have been deeply convinced.

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This national consensus will have to serve only Algeria by speeding up, in particular, the return of its children who were misled and to whom the country addressed a clemency appeal, the appeal to which many had responded, praise to God.

However, even if not all the political class [parties] has come forward, many candidates have decided to respond to your choice. Today, as a patriot I reiterate to them my warmest congratulations.

Citizens, as you know many voices among you have spoken asking me to continue with you that noble effort that we collectively started over two years ago. To those who addressed this call, I thank them very much for this trust. I say to all: Whatever I did to the country I have only been responding to the call of duty at this difficult time, the same as the rest of my brothers who agreed to shoulder the responsibility for the sake of serving only Algeria, and they are many, praise to God.

Indeed, I have agreed to shoulder the heavy tasks, which I am carrying now with the spirit of continuity in performing part of the national duty, a part that nobody has completely fulfilled except our martyrs.

In view of the great trust some of you have put in me, I have been thinking for a long time and have finally decided that I have no right to disregard your trust especially as it stems from the patriotic and brave citizens from most of the regions of our country, these patriots who are shouldering their responsibilities daily despite all the challenges in the service of Algeria.

Therefore, I announce to you, Algerian men and women, that I have decided to run for presidency. [applause and cheers]

I am a candidate for the sake of a united Algeria without exclusion and under the rule of law. I am running for this duty in order to protect and edify a democratic and republican Algeria under the shadow of loyalty to our deeply-rooted national values.

I am a candidate in order to continue [my efforts] to break with the past, solely at the service of the Algerian people. Yes citizens, I am a candidate in order to complete, with you, [the edification of] that new national order, which I had called for two years ago. A new order that will see the birth of a new generation of politicians and leaders; a generation that will be entrusted with carrying the flame of November [1954, the start of the revolution]; a generation that will always embody on the ground your aspirations for national concord and progress shared by all the children of our homeland; aspirations that aim to give a firm foothold to Algeria among the nations.

Algerian men and women: I am standing as a candidate and your independent choice will be embodied, with God's help, in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, and transparency.

Glory and immortality to our valiant martyrs. Long live Algeria. God's peace, mercy and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Holds News Conference

LD1909194095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1241 GMT 19 Sep 95

[News conference by President Liamine Zeroual with unidentified correspondents in Algiers on 19 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. President, [words indistinct] security situation, and administrative and legal conditions for holding these elections?

[Zeroual] Thank you. We will start with the administrative and technical preparations. Everyone is aware, particularly journalists, that all the administrative and technical preparations are about to be completed in all the provinces.

Personally, I have instructed the head of government, in his capacity as the chairman of the national committee of preparing for the elections, that all the administrative and technical preparations must be completed before the start of the election campaign.

Regarding the security situation: You have all noticed that the situation has been improving daily. This is not my opinion as the head of state, it is based on the testimony of the Algerian people who are suffering from that dangerous and destructive plague.

The daily improvements are primarily due to the courage and strong will of the Algerian people, and to the sacrifices and commitment to duty of all our security forces.

We are all aware of the acts perpetrated by the criminal, mercenary, and traitorous groups. The term terrorists may not truly describe those people.

As you have seen and read in newspapers and the statements issued by the security services, their [the armed groups] operations are aimed against our people and they want to take revenge directly, because they have become aware that the vast majority of our people have abandoned those criminals as they have seen their true nature. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, do you regard yourself as an independent candidate or the candidate of civil society, which has been calling for your nomination

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because in your person they see consensus and national accord? In the event of your election as president of the republic [words indistinct]?

[Zeroual] I regard myself as an independent candidate and as a patriot who believes in the principles of the November revolution. I also believe that all the principles of the November revolution have not been completed [tustakmal] so far due to the deviations and maneuvers in our country. These are known to everyone.

I believe in this plan. I am a patriotic candidate who believes in the national plan, which has stemmed from and is based on the principles of the glorious November revolution.

I do not have a political party, nor do I belong to....[applause]

In the event of my nomination, which is up to the Algerian people; I do not believe that anyone who would assume the leadership in the country would not persist with the national dialogue because the dialogue is a cultural achievement and Algerians must get used to talking to each other whatever the differences. [passage omitted]

National dialogue must continue, even under normal circumstances. Whenever there is an opposition and an authority, there has to be dialogue between the authority and the opposition; this is democracy. [passage omitted]

If somebody has a political program they should present it to the Algerian people. If the Algerian people blesses such a program and sees that it fits with the people's aspirations, then we all will help them realize such a program. But if we see them deviate from the basic principles and matters, thus likely to harm the Algerian people, then it would be our duty and that of every Algerian to denounce such a deviation.

National dialogue must continue, not just in these current circumstances. It is my belief and personal view that national dialogue must continue after the country has come out of this crisis. Dialogue should then even intensify because (?multipartism) are a great gain for democracy in Algeria. We must always preserve such a gain. Thank you.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Zeroual] Thank you. As far as the political platform of any candidate is concerned, it is natural that every candidate to the forthcoming presidential elections is required by the electoral law to come up with his detailed political platform, which he must explain to the Algerian people, and his views on every aspect of life, be it political, economic, or social.

I outlined in my speech my political platform. Also, I tried to expound, like the rest of the candidates, on the essence of my platform. My platform rests upon the principles of the glorious November Revolution [the declaration issued by the National Liberation Front on the eve of 1 November 1954, launching the war for national liberation against the French]

The principles outlined by the Algerian revolution before the independence of the country are the bases of my platform. However, such principles must be redefined and enriched in accordance with the new realities in order to make sure that democracy in our country will not be an imported one but a democracy that is deeply rooted in the history of the Algerian people.

Concerning your second question on finding a consensus between the political class through our dialogue — which has continuously been going on for two years now and which every one of you has followed its stages — I was hoping that before we set up a date for the presidential elections the political class would have been in a position to accept our decision and the will of the Algerian people. There are a number of parties [who refused to come to an agreement] and as far as I am concerned, I respect their decision because we live in a democracy and everybody should shoulder his responsibilities, the Algerian people are the only referee between us, however.

I cannot assess any decision taken by an official of any political party. I am responsible for my own decisions, and the arbitrator in our country is the Algerian people. After the elections, I or somebody else winning will be the decision of the Algerian people. There must come a time when we get together as I said around the interests of this country. We may have differences over economic or social programs, over how to tackle some problems, but our political class, all those who engage in politics must unite around Algeria's higher interest. This way we will attain a consensus, but there must be sincere efforts by all sides because we are Algerians and we all have rights to this country. We must arrive at the language of understanding between us, at the higher objective, i.e. every politician or political party should first and foremost place national interest above any consideration. Thank you. [passage omitted]

Concerning the credibility of the elections, you all know that the credibility of elections depends first on the quality of the candidates seeking the blessing of the people. I will guarantee free elections. Second, it is the Algerian people's participation in this election.

We have defined all the regulations and I have committed myself, as defense minister and head of state,

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to ensure that these elections will be held in full freedom. We have set up a committee at the request of the political parties that had doubts in this respect, an independent national committee that had already started its work. You also know that we have invited international observers from international organizations — the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and the Arab League.

As journalists I would like to see you in the field and I want you to see for yourselves our people being the first side concerned with the election matter, and would like you to witness the credibility and freedom of the up-coming elections, God willing.

We cannot play with the popular will because as sons of these people we admire these people and we glorify it. It is impossible for me, either as a head of state or as an ordinary citizen, to play with the sovereign choice of the Algerian people. Thank you.

Brothers I thank you for the valuable questions and hope to see you later, God willing. [applause]

Egypt

Sudan's Taha Denounces Attack on Mubarak

NC1909141795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha held a news conference at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo today. He said Sudan rejects assassination and crimes of violence and denounced the attempted attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. He noted that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and the government denounced the incident at the time.

He said his country cooperated more than once in confronting terrorism, noting that his country handed over terrorist Carlos the Jackal and three hijackers of an Ethiopian plane. However, he said his country has no knowledge of the three terrorists whose extradition was requested by Ethiopia in connection with the attempted attack in Addis Ababa.

Taha expressed Sudan's readiness to cooperate with Egypt in confronting terrorism and political violence, but said this should be the subject of discussion between the two sides along with other "outstanding" issues.

'Mass Graves' of POW's Discovered by Newspaper

NC1909204795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Mass graves of Egyptian POW's killed by Israeli soldiers have been discovered with the help of a soldier who took part in the Arab-Israeli war in 1967. The graves were discovered west of al-'Arish Air Base in the scene of operations in Sinai, AL-AHRAM reports in its 20 September issue. The paper adds that digging near the al-'Arish Air Base revealed remains of bones crushed as a result of erosion and aging.

The paper cites Sinai nomads who witnessed the war as saying that they saw Israeli vehicles loaded with Egyptian soldiers stop near the site. More than 30 Egyptian soldiers stepped down from the vehicle and were shot by the Israelis, who left their bodies for the nomads to bury.

Digging by the members of an expedition AL-AHRAM led to the location revealed remains of human bones, indicating the presence of corpses that decomposed completely, leaving nothing but remains of bones and skulls.

Citing the nomads who saw the war, the paper reviews the heroic stories of the Egyptian soldiers. It relates how those soldiers stood fast against the enemy until their ammunition ran out. It tells how they raised white flags and were still shot immediately by the Israeli soldiers in blatant violation of international laws governing the treatment of war prisoners.

Official Orders AL-WAFD Editors' Release

NC1909164195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Hisham Saraya, attorney general of the State Security Prosecution, today ordered the release of Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq, assistant chief editor of AL-WAFD newspaper, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim, an editor of the newspaper. The release order was issued after hearing their testimonies on a report submitted by Hasanayn Salam, People's Assembly member and National Democratic Party secretary in al-Jizah, accusing the newspaper of slander for publishing a report on the seizure of state-owned land.

The investigation was conducted by Yasir Rifa'i, head of the State Security Prosecution. It was attended by Hasan al-Rashidi, a representative of the Journalists Association Council; AL-WAFD's legal adviser Husayn Hilmi; and a representative of the Human Rights Organization.

Hasan al-Rashidi noted at the prosecution office the rejection of Law No. 93 and the president of the Republic's assertions that precautionary detention of journalists will not be carried out until a new Press law has been devised.

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Libya

Employers Ordered To Obtain Permits for Foreign Workers

LD1909150895 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security informs all Libyan Arab nationals who are owners of cooperatives and holders of licenses for professional, agricultural, industrial or other activities that in accordance with Law Number 6 of 1987 regarding the regulation of the entry and residence of foreigners in Libya and their exit, and in order to simplify the procedures of granting residence, to ensure the comfort of the workers coming to stay in the Great Jamahiriyah, and to control these workers and protect their rights, the aforementioned parties must take the necessary measures to obtain work permits for their Arab or foreign workers from the General Workforce Authority and settle their situation with the offices of the Passport Administration to obtain residence stamps for them within 60 days from the date of this announcement.

The necessary legal procedures will be taken against all those proven to be in violation of the laws and resolutions which regulate employment or residence after the deadline set in this announcement.

Morocco

Minister Basri on Constitutional, Sahara Polls

MM1909123095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Minister of State for the Interior Driss Basri by Mohammed al-Ashhab in Rabat; date not given: "Basri Tells AL-HAYAH: Referendum Demonstrates Moroccan People's Awareness of Need To Modernize Government Performance. United Nations Is Free To Withdraw From Sahara If It So Wishes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat — The Moroccan Minister of State for the Interior, Driss Basri, has described the people's participation in last Friday's referendum on amending the country's Constitution, with a view to deferring the annual examination of the budget from the fall session to the spring session, as intensive and as demonstrating that the various factions of the Moroccan people are aware of the need to modernize the machinery of the government's performance in the political and economic fields.

Replying to a question by AL-HAYAH, he said that the intervening period until the date covered by the constitutional amendment will make it necessary for the government to submit a budget covering six months only.

He expressed the view that the percentage of nonparticipants in the referendum, which amounted to about 30 percent of registered voters, was of no political significance and was merely due to the psychological conditions of the people in the cities, particularly because the people in the rural areas rushed to the ballot boxes in large numbers.

He pointed out that the highest percentage of nonparticipation was recorded in some of the electoral constituencies in the capital, Rabat, as well as in Tangier, Kenitra, and Tetouan.... He affirmed, however, that the participation of the inhabitants of the Saharan provinces was high and that the same applies to the people of Spanish Ceuta and Melilla, in the northern part of the country, who cast their votes in neighboring areas after the Spanish authorities refused them permission to participate in the two aforementioned cities.

Speaking of the constitutional reforms, which are expected to take place next year, aimed at transforming parliament from a unicameral to a bicameral body, Driss Basri said: The Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, has announced his intention to hold consultations with all the political organizations about the significance of the reforms, stating that when a clear picture is formed of the nature of the structure of the two houses of parliament and the powers to be vested in the parliamentary institution, consultations will begin. He did not rule out, however, the likelihood of the suspension of parliament, since the king of the country possesses the necessary constitutional powers to enable him to embark on such an action. Everything will depend, however, on political developments and the extent of their compatibility with the conditions in the country, within the framework of concern for the consecration of the democratic course and the activation of the role of the institutions.

Minister Basri said that the campaigns for the 15 September referendum recorded the holding of 800 meetings of which 165 meetings were organized by the majority parties and 33 meetings organized by the opposition parties. It is noted that all the political institutions have unanimously approved the apolitical character of the amendment, which was unanimously welcomed by political circles, socioeconomic organizations, and all components of society.

Driss Basri also spoke of the position on the amendment taken by the main opposition parties. He said that all the parties have manifested their support for this amendment and that the king's announcement of a new referendum next year with a view to establishing a bicameral parliamentary system has also met with

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a great welcome, so much so that the opposition parties, the Istiqlal and the Socialist Parties, issued a joint statement declaring that voting in favor of the constitutional amendment is the way to constitutional reforms which touch on the essence of the Constitution and the Moroccan representative system.

He pointed out that the cost of organizing last Friday's referendum did not exceed 9 billion Moroccan centimes, although early estimates put the expenditure at 13 billion. This is the smallest amount ever spent on a popular referendum in the country.

It is noteworthy that the percentage of those who voted in favor of the constitutional amendment exceeded 99 percent, while the percentage of those who participated in the voting was 70 percent of an electorate numbering 12 million voters.

Asked about the attitude of the Rabat Government toward the UN threat to withdraw its MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] delegation should the obstacles to the implementation of the planned referendum in the Sahara persist, Minister Driss Basri replied that Morocco has committed itself in advance to cooperation with the United Nations and that out of its respect for the criteria set by the UN Security Council aimed at ascertaining the true number of people of Saharan stock who are eligible to participate in the referendum, Morocco has compiled lists containing the names of about 183,000 citizens who satisfy the conditions specified by the UN criteria; as soon as the process of identifying these voters has been completed, Basri will submit to the UN Mission new lists containing the names of about 100,000 Saharans.

He said that the United Nations was aware of Morocco's commitment to cooperate with it and that, should it feel it necessary to withdraw from the Saharan provinces, then it is free to do so as long as that is what it deems suitable. For its part, Morocco is committed to implementing the international resolutions, "but it will defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity if exposed to any aggression." The Minister was thus referring to recent statements by some Polisario Front leaders threatening recourse to arms again.

He pointed out that the UN Security Council was now studying the recent report submitted by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus- Ghali, concerning the adoption of a suitable means for dealing with developments, and said that government authorities will be meeting with UN officials next week to monitor these developments, and also that Morocco insists that no member of the Saharan population who is of Saharan stock will be prevented from participating in the referendum, which it is planned to hold at the beginning of next year.

Sudan

Officials Say Riots Were 'Foreign Conspiracy'

EA1909163395 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Interrogations by security officials of those who masterminded the riots have exposed the magnitude of the involvement of foreign conspiracy in the incident, through the remnants of the defeated Communist Party. Tonight we shed light on the main facts that emerged from the investigations.

Citizens have heard about the student demonstrations and the destruction that ensued, which caused damage to property, both private and public. The incident began on 9 September, when a number of communist students at Khartoum University held a sit-in and prevented their colleagues from entering lecture halls, on the pretext that they were seeking the release of three students arrested with others on 2 September by security officers inside the nest of conspiracy in Quarter 22 of al-Thawra, in Omdurman, House No. 606, occupied by [name indistinct], a communist activist. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

It was disclosed that groups of trained political cadres had infiltrated the universities in order to incite them to riot. The authorities concerned discovered residential locations which were used to direct the destructive activities and the riots. Those arrested were found with firearms, knives, and swords, as well as Molotov cocktails.

Police sources confirmed to the television that a committee comprising the prosecutor's office and the police has been established to interrogate all those arrested, students and non-students, including foreigners of Ethiopian and Eritrean nationality. [passage omitted]

The source added that all those arrested were released after 17 people were charged with the riots, in addition to separate criminal charges that were filed against Nadir Bashir Yusuf for possessing a pistol, and against others for possessing other weapons. Charges have also been filed against Shihab Ali Yusuf, for tearing the holy Koran and belittling it in front of a gathering of students. [passage omitted]

Popular Resistance Calls For 'Huge' Demonstrations

EA1909205495 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1456 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The popular resistance appeals to the masses of all our people in all the Sudanese towns

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and villages, parties, students, professions and workers' unions, men and women to come out in huge demonstrations on Thursday, 21 September 1995, so that the whole world hears the voice of the Sudanese people rejecting dictatorship and the rule of the extremist Islamic Front Party.

We also appeal to the honorable sons of our people in the regular forces, those who are in service and those who are dismissed, to join the uprising [intifadah] of our people and protect its back until victory.

Unionist Party Rejects Inclusion of Islamic Front

MM1909185895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Unionist Party Warns Against Accepting Any Government Formula That Includes the Islamic Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] has warned that a "fragile leadership could accept a political formula for a system of government in Sudan which would include the Islamic National Front." The DUP rejected "any dialogue or reconciliation" with the Sudanese regime, stressing that last week's demonstrations were "an angry uprising and a rejection of the regime's ploys and tactics."

In a statement issued by its press secretary, 'Adil Sayyid Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hadi, the DUP explained that the regime "is resorting to plucking its own feathers, eating its own sons, and making a sacrifice of some of its cadres in order to win time in its failed attempt to regain its balance, upset by internal splits." It expressed the view that "high prices, poverty, disease, and injustice are no longer marginal social issues," and pointed out that "the Sudanese people, through their long history, have shown that their patience and tolerance have limits."

It added that "the demonstrations that erupted in the capital's streets and the provinces express anger and rejection. They are the vanguard of a people's revolution that will not backtrack." It went on: "The DUP is now playing its full part in confronting this regime and confirms our fixed position in the struggle to topple the regime and our total rejection of any dialogue, reconciliation, or political formula to rule Sudan that includes the [Islamic] Front. This formula may be acceptable to some fragile leaderships, through incentives or threats; we, however, warn of the people's anger against it, if the Sudanese people's cause is sold out for government seats in a dying regime." It pointed to the fact that the recent opposition conference in Asmara "defined the options for running the country's affairs, bringing about change for the good of society, and establishing a solid background to solve the problem of the South in a united Sudan." It urged the masses "to take to the streets and call for the regime's fall, because the people's revolution has matured."

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of the Ummah Party General Secretariat has urged international and regional human rights organizations to "exert pressure [on the regime] to free the students and citizens detained during last week's uprising, remove all aspects of repression, and prevent the obstruction of the people's freedom of movement."

In a statement issued yesterday, the committee urged all Sudanese "to support the internal front and the people's struggle to safeguard their destiny epitomized in the country's unity and the guarantee of political and cultural pluralism." It called on the international and regional community to "stand by the Sudanese people in their quest for justice." It urged all political forces "to support the internal front in its attempt to restore democracy and to topple the oppressive regime." The statement added that "the Ummah Party General Secretariat in the United Kingdom and the Ansar al-Mahdi Vanguards abroad are standing by the Sudanese people and their students' conscience, which has been venting its anger over the past two days."

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'Text' of GCC Final Statement Issued

LD1909182695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 19 Sep — Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at midday today concluded the meetings of the 56th ordinary session of the GCC Ministerial Council which lasted for two days under the chairmanship of the foreign minister of Bahrain Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The delegation of the Kingdom was headed by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The Council released a statement read out by His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi, the GCC secretary general.

The text of which is as follows:

Press statement: 56th session.

The Ministerial Council held its 56th ordinary session at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Riyadh on 18 and 19 September 1995, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister of the state of Bahrain; and in the presence of Rashid Bin- 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, foreign minister of the UAE; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi Arabian kingdom's foreign minister; Yusuf Bin- 'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of Sultanate of Oman; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister of the state of Qatar; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the state of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council would like at the beginning to present to His Majesty the Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, most sincere congratulations on his safe escape from the traffic accident to which he had been exposed and pray to Almighty God to bestow his bounty on him and to protect him from any ill and evil and to grant full health and long life.

The Council also expressed its deep sorrow for the death of the late Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs. While offering to His Majesty Sultan Qabus most sincere condolences, the Council prays to almighty God to bestow His mercy on him and to his family solace and patience. From God we have come and to him we shall return.

The Ministerial Council discussed the track of Iraqi implementation of UN Security Council resolutions related to Iraq's aggression against the state of Kuwait and expressed its great regret at the vast, serious, and frightening information that was revealed by the special UN committee on the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction following recent developments in Iraq concerning the Iraqi armament programs in the nuclear, biological, and bacteriological fields and the range of the missiles that were admitted by Iraq after a denial that lasted well over four years, a matter that confirms the lack of seriousness and credibility of this regime towards its international commitment and the threat this posed to security and stability in the region.

While the Ministerial Council expresses deep regrets over the Iraqi Government's production of biological weapons — which can spread epidemics and seriously harm Iraq itself and the Arab region as a whole to such an extent that no one can foresee at the present — it calls upon the international commission in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons of total destruction to exert its efforts and bring in more experts to make sure that it has control over such weapons and is able to destroy them as soon as possible.

In this respect, however, the Council praises the efforts of the international commission in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons of total destruction for pinpointing the serious aspects of Iraq's arms program and reaffirms its support for the commission's endeavors.

Furthermore, in light of the recent development in Iraq as it is clear now that the latter's commitment to its international obligations lacked credibility and seriousness and in view of its maneuvers over the past four years to avoid complying fully with the Security Council resolutions, the Security Council's decision on 8 September to keep the sanctions imposed on Iraq was therefore fully justified by such developments emerging from Iraq itself.

The Council calls upon the international community to continue its pressure on the Iraqi Government until it shows its good intentions and complies with all the clauses of Resolution 687 and other international resolutions, particularly those dealing with the release of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages whose suffering has lingered on because of the Iraqi Government's procrastination and its refusal to cooperate with the tripartite committee in charge of resolving the prisoners' problems and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as its violation of the Geneva Third and Fourth Treaty and the relevant international resolutions.

The Council reaffirms, however, its full commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty and its rejection of any policy aiming at dividing Iraq.

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Furthermore, it reaffirms its sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people over its plight and suffering for which the Iraqi Government should nonetheless be held responsible following its refusal to accept the Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, of 1991, and 986, of 1995, which provide for humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people in a bid to alleviate its suffering.

The Ministerial Council also examined the latest development in the relations between the GCC and the Islamic Republic of Iran since the latter's occupation of the three islands — the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa — which belong to the United Arab Emirates.

The Council expresses deep regret over the latter's refusal to cooperate with the UAE's serious and sincere invitations to reach a peaceful solution for this problem.

Furthermore, it also expresses its concern over the measures that have been taken by the Iranian Government to consecrate its occupation of the three islands, thus compromising the UAE's sovereignty in violation of international law, the charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the principles of good-neighborliness, and the sovereignty and integrity of the countries of the region.

The Council reiterates its firm stance in supporting the UAE and stresses its sovereignty over its isles: Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. It also reiterates its full and absolute support for all the peaceful ways and measures the UAE employs to recover its sovereignty over the three isles and calls upon Iran to accept the referral of the conflict to the International Court of Justice.

The Council reviewed the developments of the Middle East peace process and reiterated the expression of its hope to see the peace process reach its aims in establishing a durable, comprehensive, and just peace in the region in such a way that secures the total Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab lands and the recovery by the Palestinian people of its legitimate rights, including the right to set up its independent state on its national soil.

The Council noted with concern Israel's perseverance in putting obstacles in the way of the work of the Palestinian authority and expressed hope in the completion of the peace process after the signing of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles concerning the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule.

The Council appeals to the cosponsors of the peace process and the international community to intervene to secure Israel's commitment to the text and spirit of the bilateral agreements with the Palestinian side, to implement them according to the agreed agenda, to refrain from obstructing the current negotiations — including the issue of withdrawing the occupation forces from Hebron — to put an end to the confiscation of Palestinian lands and to any other practices that contradict moves towards peace in the region, to take urgent and decisive measures to end the terrorist acts and aggressions carried out by the Israeli settlers against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank, and calls upon the international community to put pressure on Israel to implement the fourth Geneva Agreement.

The Council reiterates its calls to the Security Council to take all the appropriate measures to force Israel not to carry out any changes in the geographical and population peculiarities of Jerusalem with its borders as known before 4 June 1967 and to secure its compliance with the UN resolutions regarding Jerusalem particularly UN Resolution 252.

The Council expresses hope that the obstacles Israel is putting in the path of the current negotiations between Israel and Syria are overcome and calls upon the cosponsors of the peace process to exert further efforts to make progress on that path. It also stresses its full support for the just Syrian demands and expresses its appreciation of Syria's stance and serious and continuous efforts to ensure the success of the peace process in the Middle East. The Council also aspires to see full progress on the Lebanese-Israeli path to reach the end of the Israeli occupation of the south of Lebanon.

The Council reviewed the latest developments in Bosnia- Herzegovina and welcomed the agreement on principles reached by the concerned parties, praising the efforts and serious moves made towards this end by the United States and the EU states, led by France and Britain, as well as the firm measures taken by NATO.

The Council expresses its hope that these will continue to force the Bosnian Serbs to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy, stop their attacks on safe areas, and secure the withdrawal of their troops and heavy weapons from the restricted area around Sarajevo.

While condemning the Bosnian Serbs for their hostile action and for pursuing a policy of ethnic cleansing, the Council stresses that peace must be based on the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina and its territorial integrity and safety within its internationally recognized borders.

The Council again urges the international community to offer material aid to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to help it in its present ordeal. In this context, it reaffirms the GCC states' commitment to con-

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tinue the provision of material and moral support to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council expresses its satisfaction with and praises the efforts made and results reached by the Contact Group, set up by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] at their meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month.

The Council also welcomes the meeting held between the OIC and the international contact groups in Paris this month, September, and expresses its appreciation of the serious and constructive role played in this by French President Jacques Chirac, hoping that consultation and cooperation between the two groups will continue to promote peace and stability in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council also expresses its hope that the warring factions in Somalia and Afghanistan will become aware of the interests of their homelands and peoples, respond to the efforts made to achieve national reconciliation and the ending of bloodshed, and to mobilize all material and human resources to restore peace, reconstruct their countries and achieve security, stability and prosperity for their countries and peoples.

As far as the economic aspects were concerned, the Council reviewed the proposals — which had already been examined by of the Financial and Economic Committee at its special meeting on 26 and 27 June 1995 — put forward by the General Secretariat to draw a united customs policy with the rest of the world. The Council hopes, however, that the Financial and Economic Committee will examine it further before the preparatory meeting of the 16th GCC summit meeting.

The Ministerial Council also acquainted itself with the annual report of the GCC Committee in Charge of Standard and Specifications as stipulated by its statute.

Furthermore, the Council examined the topics on the agenda of the Economic Summit Conference on the Middle East and North Africa due to take place in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In this respect, the Council reiterates the need for closer coordination between the GCC member states on this matter.

The Council also examined the outcome the tripartite meeting [as heard] between the GCC and the EU which was held in the Spanish town of Grenada on 20 July 1995. In this respect, the Council welcomes the positive outcome of the meeting and looks forward to the setting up of a committee of experts from both sides to revaluate the progress of the negotiations and to propose new initiatives if the need for fresh momentum arises.

The Council welcomes, however, the European initiative for a joint meeting in Luxembourg on 22 and 23 April 1996.

The Council looks forward to the preparatory meeting due to be held in Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman on 4 November 1995.

Issued in Riyadh on 19 September 1995.

Kuwait

Iranian Ambassador Discusses 'Good' Ties

95p50172 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Transled Text] Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ghulam 'Ali Sana'ti praised the good and developing relations between Iran and Kuwait. He emphasized that the two countries have decided to cooperate further in the information and cultural fields. In this context, an information delegation from the Iranian Islamic Republic will be visiting Kuwait in response to an invitation by the Information Ministry. Moreover, a delegation from the Kuwaiti-Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Committee will visit Tehran soon. It is expected that Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin will visit Tehran to continue the Iranian-Kuwaiti dialogue and the deputy minister of commerce and industry will visit Tehran in the next few days to attend the opening of the Iranian annual fair and to sign a commercial agreement between the two countries. At the end of the year, an Iranian commercial exhibit will open in Kuwait.

In a statement yesterday, the ambassador said that the exchange of contacts between the two Muslim neigbors strengthens and firmly establishes their relations.

He also expressed his concern toward the presence of foreign forces in the region, saying that this presence increases tension in the area. Foreign forces had not come to defend Muslim countries but to advance their own interests under the guise of assisting the countries of the region against Iraqi threats. He said that joint efforts of the countries in the region are the best way to guarantee peace, security, and stability.

Ambassador Sana'ti said that his country's position on the islands issue has not changed. The best result will come from bipartisan talks and negotiations. The Iranian Islamic Republic is still awaiting the visit of a United Arab Emirates [UAE] delegation to Tehran in return for the visit, two years ago, by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He added that the problems between Iran and the UAE would be minimal were it not for the interference of some foreign countries and their representatives who are bent on complicating the situation. He emphasized that the two countries are working at keeping the situation under control.

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Sana'ti commended the positive views of Kuwaiti officials on this topic.

Yemeni Official on Progress in Relations

LD1809092895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0814 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aden — Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi has reaffirmed that contacts between his country and the State of Kuwait are continuing in order to improve the track of fraternal relations between the countries. In a statement published here today by the government—owned 14 OCTOBER he pointed out that last Thursday's [14 September] visit of Shaykh Muhammad Sabah al- Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador in the United States, to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih [who is receiving medical treatment in the United States] and the message he conveyed to the president from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir the amir of the State of Kuwait, who wanted to be assured about the president's health, undoubtedly demonstrate the extent of progress which has thus far been made in the relations between the two countries which became somewhat stagnant as a result of the circumstances of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He said that everyone hopes that Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations will witness good progress in the near future. [passage omitted]

Japanese Prime Minister Comments on Ties

LD1809104995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al- Sabah, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, has received a written message from Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Tomiichi Murayama, in which he praised the impressive achievements accomplished by the State of Kuwait in the sphere of reconstruction and development, the removal of the after effects of the unjust Iraqi aggression, and the effective role played by Kuwait in preserving peace and stability in the Gulf region.

The Japanese prime minister also stressed his government's interest in strengthening the strong friendship and traditional cooperation ties existing between the State of Kuwait and Japan, and developing them in the different spheres.

Shipbuilding Firm Receives International Certificate

95P50172B Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Company for Building and Repairing Ships has just received the International Standard Organization certificate "ISO-9002" from the German "Germanischer Lloyd" Commission, becoming the first company in the Gulf in its field to get this certificate.

Musa M'arifi, the company's chairman of the board, said that getting this certificate gives his company international status and enables it to compete on an international level. It also gives the ship owners greater confidence and trust in dealing with the company.

In a statement to AL-QABAS, al-M'arifi emphasized that "ISO-9002" certification will improve company sales. Moreover, the company will not raise prices for its services, despite the additional expenses paid out to get the certification and maintain certification standards. The company now needs to follow specific rules and regulations in its operations, which require a higher level of human resources for labor and administration.

He clarified that ISO certification is normally valid for two years and is renewed through a number of checks and audits by the commission. The company can lose this certification any time if it does not maintain administrative and technical standards.

M'arifi expressed his hope that the Kuwaiti central bids committee will not only be looking for low bids but will consider ISO qualification a condition for bidding. It is not fair, he added, to compare an ISO-qualified company with an unqualified one. He noted that some companies who win a bid forward the contracts to unqualified outside contractors, which can result in low- quality work. [passage omitted]

Oman

Officials Receive Iranian Foreign Minister

LD1609131395 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 16 (IRNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on his way back home from Kuala Lumpur made a stop-over in Salalah, Oman for a brief visit to the sultanate.

Velayati, scheduled to confer with Omani officials, was greeted in Salalah by his Omani counterpart Yusuf bin-'Alawi bin-'Abdallah.

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Velayati's talks with high ranking Omani officials will focus on ways to promote and consolidate bilateral relations as well as upgrade mutual cooperation in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman enjoy close and friendly relations and have positive and constructive cooperation.

After attending the joint meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (September 14-15) on Bosnia the Iranian foreign minister left Kuala Lumpur Friday night, seen off at by his Malaysian counterpart Ahmad Badawi Abdullah.

Qatar

Talks Held With Iranian Officials on Relations

LD1809093595 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e Deylam, Bushehr Prov., Sept. 18, IRNA — Iran and Qatar Sunday [17 September] discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. The talks were held between Governor General of the southern province of Bushehr 'Abdolrahman Nadimi Bushehri and Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jabir Al Thani.

Qatar radio, monitored here, announced that in the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral ties and cooperation. Governor general of Bushehr arrived in Doha two days ago leading a political and economic delegation for talks about expansion of cooperation between Iran and Qatar.

United Arab Emirates

Government Seeks To Ensure Justice in Maid Case

JN1909202695 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 19 (GNA) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said today it would continue its efforts to ensure justice and stability and criticised furors over the death sentence against a Filipino housemaid convicted of murdering her employer in al-'Ayn.

In a statement, the Justice Ministry said all authorities were working to implement President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahyyan's instructions to guarantee security and punish violators.

"Out of President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nahyyan's belief in the need to ensure stability, tranquility and decent life for the citizens, all competent parties in the UAE are fully performing [words indistinct] tranquility and stability throughout the country and to fight crime and anti-security practices and hit with a strong hand against any one who harm security," a Justice Ministry source said.

"The UAE is following the Islamic shari'ah (rule) in punishing offenders. What has been raised about the sentence against Sarah Balbagan is strange and a distortion of facts."

The source said the 27-year-old Balabgan, a Filipino housemaid in al-'Ayn, murdered her employer Almas 'Abdallah al-Malushi, 70, on July 10 last year by stabbing him 34 times in different parts of his body according to medical and forensic report.

The court in al-'Ayn investigated the case and listened to witnesses and doctors who submitted reports on the issue. This made it convinced of the charge of premeditated murder against the dependent as the defendant herself has confessed to the killing.

On this basis, the court sentenced the defendant to death and she has the right to appeal.

"Out of the UAE's keenness to detect the truth, the court said its verdict could be appealed at the Supreme Federal Court and the sentence would not be carried out until a final verdict is issued even if the defendant did not appeal," the source said.

"Furthermore, a death sentence in the UAE could be carried out only after it is endorsed by the President of the Federation."

The source said the sentence was not final and Balabgan had the right to appeal at the Appeals Court and the Supreme Federal Court in accordance with the Islamic rules.

"The defendant is accused of killing a man and she has confessed to it. Should she be acquitted at random? What is the sentence against those who plead guilty in all countries..Is it acquittal.

"The UAE, since it was founded has spared not effort to ensure security and stability to all its citizens. The defendant is 27 years old as it is verified in her passport and other official documents. She is not a teenager as the media in her country has claimed."

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Yemen

President Interviewed on Current Issues

MM20090854 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
19 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has told AL-HAYAH in Paris that the work of the Yemeni-Saudi committees "is proceeding well, and the results are excellent." He disclosed that Yemen handed to the Saudi side a draft security agreement which the Saudis are currently "studying."

'Ali Salih stressed the existence of contacts between his and Salim Salih Muhammad, former member of the Presidential Council. He said Salim Salih "is in the process of organizing his affairs to return to the homeland, now that he has condemned the secession and the war waged by the secessionists." He has also toned down his language vis-a-vis former Prime Minister Haydar al-'Attas. He said: If al-'Attas returns to the state's treasury the state property he took from the institutions and the remaining sums of the money allocated to the secession, his issue could be considered in the framework of the coalition government" in Yemen.

He stressed Yemen's rejection of all types of extremism. Yemen "will not allow any type of extremism by anyone or any quarter."

Asked about the nature of the contacts made with Salim Salih Muhammad and other former officials, and Salim Salih's complaint that he has not received his allowances, 'Ali Salih told AL-HAYAH: "I am the head of state, and any citizen is entitled to contact me and I should listen to his complaint and try to tackle it. In the context I will issue my instructions to al-Jifri (meaning 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Jifri, leader of the Opposition National Front and the League of the Sons of Yemen) to continue to pay the allowances that used to be paid to Salim Salih."

AL-HAYAH conducted an interview with the Yemeni president during his stay in Paris and on the eve of his meeting with President Jacques Chirac. He spoke first about his recent visit to the United States, saying: "The visit was to do with conducting some medical tests. The tests were conducted in the Mayo Clinic. The results were good and reassuring, praise be to God. Contacts were made during the visit with U.S. investors to encourage them to invest in Yemen. U.S. investments are forthcoming, especially in the free zone in Aden and in the oil and gas spheres."

On his visit to France he said: "Yemeni-French relations are good and developed, and there is growing Yemeni-French cooperation. I met with President Chirac during the visit. We discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of advancing bilateral relations in order to achieve the interests of the two friendly peoples. We also discussed numerous issues and regional and international developments of common interest, first and foremost developments in the peace process in the region, conditions in Bosnia, and the other issues of common interest. We reviewed ways of developing joint cooperation and discussed areas of French investments in Yemen, especially as an agreement will be signed in the next few days on the gas project with the French company Total and a number of U.S. companies. It is a strategic and vital project for both countries and their interests."

Asked where there is something new vis-a-vis relations with Saudi Arabia, he said: "Yemeni-Saudi relations are fruitful, developed, and moving rapidly toward achieving the aspirations of the two neighboring and fraternal peoples. And the joint committees formed under the memorandum of understanding are continuing their meetings, producing positive results for the sake of securing a final and acceptable solution to the border issue between the two neighboring countries. We are satisfied with the course of the committees' proceedings, the brotherly relations, and the areas of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. Without doubt the development of brotherly relations reflects positively on the interests of the two countries, the two peoples, and the course of stability and prosperity in the peninsula and the regional as a whole."

Asked whether there has been a delay in the committees' work, he said: "No. The committees' work is proceeding well, and the results are excellent."

Asked whether the two countries (Saudi Arabia and Yemen) are going to sign a security agreement, he said: "Yemen has submitted a draft security agreement to its brothers in Saudi Arabia, who are currently studying it."

The following question was put forward: There is talk about contacts being made between you and a number of Socialist Party leaders abroad. Do you make a distinction between those who supported the secession and those who took part in it? The Yemeni president replied: "True, [contacts are made] with Salim Salih Muhammad. Contacts are continuing with him. He was outside Yemen when the war broke out. He was pressured into taking certain positions. But he is now in the process of organizing his affairs to return to the homeland, now that he has condemned the secession and the war committed by the secessionists."

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He was asked: What about the contacts made with you by Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas? He replied: "Al-'Attas committed a big mistake when he participated in preparing and implementing the secession plan. He submitted to the pressure exerted by the influential forces in the Socialist Party, namely the military men and extremist politicians. He was dragged into the secession situation. And he is on a list of 16 people wanted for trial. If al-'Attas returns to the state's treasury the state property he took from the institutions and the rest of the sums allocated to the secession, his issue could be discussed in the framework of the coalition government."

Asked whether relations with relations with the partner in the government, that is the Yemeni Reform grouping, have improved, he said: "Relations between the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping are strategic and governed by the coalition document."

He was asked: "What about the incidents committed by extremist elements, such as the throwing of hand grenade on a wedding party in Aden?" He said: "Yemen is against all forms of extremist, whether it is practiced by the far lift or the far right. Any extremist element violating the law are dealt with firmly. What happened in Aden was exaggerated by the press, and the organs concerned have taken legal measures against the elements accused of committing that incident. We are against all forms of extremism, and Yemen will not allow extremism to be practiced by anyone or any quarter."

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U.S. Said Seeking 'To Destroy' Country's Progress

JN1809081395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the U.S. Administration and its allies are afraid of a new resurgent Iraq and of its potential for playing a leading pan-Arab and human role in terms of renaissance, and that is why they seek to destroy all components of progress in Iraq.

In an article today entitled "They are Targeting the Whole of Iraq, and Not Only its Political Regime," the paper adds: One of the central aims of the anti-Iraq U.S. aggression and plotting is to change the Iraqi political regime, because this regime has mirrored, in the best possible manner, the aspirations and ambitions of the people and the entire Arab nation with regard to implementing a pan- Arab cultural plan. However, it is also clear that the United States is not only targeting this regime. The United States is well aware that the deep-rooted Iraqi people have crushed the shackles of backwardness, capitulation, and subservience, and seized the keys to their future.

The paper goes on to say: All that the United States has thus far done to Iraq—the barbaric aggression; the systematic devastation of its infrastructure and its scientific, economic, and cultural facilities; the unfair embargo it is imposing, and the all-out genocide it is perpetrating—confirms that the U.S. Administration seeks to destroy and weaken Iraq and decimate its potential for progress. It aims to change Iraq for the worse, the paper stresses.

Concluding, the paper says: The U.S. Administration has said the sanctions on Iraq will remain in place until after the Iraqi political regime is toppled, nursing the delusion that this will rupture the cohesion and solidarity between the Iraqi people and their political regime. However, what has happened on the ground is quite the opposite, and the people's rallying behind their political regime and their historical leadership headed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has only been boosted.

U.S. 'Interference' Said To Block Reconciliation

JN1809095595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH hopes that an inter-Arab reconciliation will be effected, and that Arab solidarity will be promoted, particularly since it has become an urgent necessity, given the current Arab and international changes and developments.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, expresses increasing optimism in this regard, saying: A new awareness is growing in the Arab and regional arenas which dictates the need to redefine inter-Arab ties, and to redefine ties between the Arab states and their neighbors away from external influences.

The paper believes that U.S. interference and ambitions in the region constitute the paramount external influence that is precluding the achievement of this objective. Nevetheless, the paper adds, this should not mean that there should be no cooperation or dealing with the United States by the Arab states or other countries of the region if the United States observes the norms and modes of conduct usually followed by independent nations in compliance with international law and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, which provide for mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and the promotion of legitimate interests.

The paper recalls the statements and pronouncements made in the aftermath of the meetings held between the Syrian and Egyptian presidents, and also in the aftermath of the meetings among the Syrian, Turkish, and Iranian foreign ministers, which underlined their categorical rejection of interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and their adherence to respect for Iraq's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

The paper adds that a careful reading of these statements and pronouncements, which were made in the aftermath of the fabricated hostile U.S. fuss against Iraq, indicates that there is a serious likelihood that ties and developments in the Arab region might have undergone some change.

U.S. Newspaper Article on Defection Discussed

JN1909183895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The American newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES says Jordan began to abandon Husayn Kamil at a time when the Jordanian press openly describes him as traitor and fugitive, adding that he has become ostracized in Amman. In a dispatch from Amman, THE NEW YORK TIMES says the majority of Jordanians and the Jordanian news media have openly expressed their hostility to Husayn Kamil and call him the traitor. The newspaper adds that Husayn Kamil has become an embarrassment to the Jordanian Government, which hides him in a safe place not only to protect him but also to control his statements, noting that his telephone calls are placed under tight surveillance.

The American newspaper cites Jordanian officials as saying that no ranking Jordanian official links his name

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openly with the Iraqi fugitive. The paper adds that those who visited him did not even inform their close friends of this. The paper says the Jordanian press published many articles in its columns against the presence of traitors in Jordan, whose people are still sympathizing with the Iraqi people against the economic blockade.

THE NEW YORK TIMES adds that public reaction in Jordan to the talks on severing economic ties with Iraq was very negative to the extent that Prime Minister al-Sharif [illegible]-Shakir and many ministers, and even King Husayn himself, intervened to deny such intention which was only welcomed in some Western and Gulf capitals only. The American newspaper adds that Jordanian officials described the crisis as a tempest in teapot. Meanwhile, Energy Minister Samih Darwazah said Jordan will not halt exporting 75,000 barrel per day from Iraq. He added that Jordan and Iraq will extend an oil pipeline at a cost of a half billion dollars and that they are studying a joint project to build an oil refinery in al-'Aqabah at a cost of $1 billion.

After reviewing the accusations leveled against Husayn Kamil, THE NEW YORK TIMES says officials and diplomats in Jordan note that the role of Husayn Kamil in reviving Jordan's relations with the Gulf states has ended. This, the paper adds, prompted many advisers to King Husayn to reaffirm that severing ties with Iraq is detrimental to the Jordanian economy.

U.S. Seen Seeking Control of Arab Homeland

JN2009105895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that by insisting on destroying the scientific achievements of Iraq, the United States is seeking to push Iraq into the plan set by Zionism to impose its control over the Arab homeland.

In an article by Hadi Daniyal appearing under the "Stand" column, the paper says: The United States wants Iraq to relinquish its independence, sovereignty, presence, and national and pan-Arab future to it and to the Zionist entity. Such a colonialist desire does not only contradict the slogans of democracy and human rights that the American and European West is raising, but also annuls the presence, the will, and the entity of the oldest people on earth, as testified by the history of mankind. By attempting to bring this deep-rooted people to their knees, they are also trying to close the doors to the future, not in the face of the Arab nation only, but also in the face of all the peoples in the southern half of our planet and in the face of a significant number of people in its northern half.

The paper notes that the U.S. Administration, its allies, and the Zionist entity have similar, and interconnected objectives to destroy the Arab nation and stop its renaissance. The paper says: The objective of that administration was clear to the Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi public; that is, to halt Iraq's development and progress, prevent it from fulfilling its pan-Arab role and mission, and to block the road to its ambitions.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The Iraqi people's steadfastness and their brave defense of their presence will turn these objectives into mere illusions living only in the minds of the rancorous ones.

'Udayy Interviewed on Lifting Sports Embargo

JN1909110995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 19 Sep 95 p 21

[Report on interview with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, eldest son of President Saddam Husayn, by sports correspondent Muhammad Qadri Hasan in Baghdad on 7 September — published on AL-ASWAQ's sports page]

[FBIS Translated Text] Against the backdrop of the new realities and hot developments in the region, it was very difficult, and almost impossible, to conduct a press interview with the "master," [ustadh] the title 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the eldest son of the Iraqi president, prefers most.

Despite that, I did not wish to leave Baghdad last week to return to Amman -after attending the soccer matches played by the Jordanian al-Wahdat Club, Qatari al-Ittihad Club, and the Iraqi al-Zawra' and al-Talabah Clubs in the second leg of the Asian Cup and league winner finals — without a press interview, which would be the first to be given by the master to a Jordanian paper. Such an interview will be an achievement that lives up to the expectation of readers, not only in Jordan and Iraq, but also all over the world following recent reports that 'Udayy has been stripped of all the major powers he had, for example from the presidency of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and the Iraq Soccer Association.

I must admit that it would not have been possible for me to obtain such a scoop and conduct this interview with 'Udayy in the heart of Baghdad, taking into consideration the recent developments, had it not been for 'Udayy's presence at al-Sha'b International Stadium to watch the al-Wahdat-al-Zawra' match, which was particularly significant because it was the first official match to be played on Iraqi ground since 1989 and since the soccer and sports embargo was imposed on fraternal Iraq in 1990.

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When I became aware that 'Udayy was in the stadium, I approached his press secretary and introduced myself. He greeted AL-ASWAQ and its readers. Incidentally, I felt for myself how much the Iraqi officials and the fraternal Iraqi people appreciate the initiatives of AL-ASWAQ, the latest of which was the interview which our colleague Nayif al-Ma'ani, AL-ASWAQ envoy to Baghdad, had with Watban Ibrahim, President Saddam's brother. Foreign news media had reported that Watban Ibrahim was shot dead by 'Udayy, but the AL- ASWAQ interview and the unique picture taken by AL-ASWAQ's cameraman Nasir Ayyub refuted that "rumor"

'Udayy's press secretary was nice to me and very responsive to my request out of his belief that AL-ASWAQ is sincere and unbiased and conveys a true and realistic picture of current events in Iraq.

I could have had the interview in the private room from which 'Udayy was watching the match between al-Wahdat and al-Zawra'. However, the time for starting the match coincided with the call to the evening prayers, at which time 'Udayy had to break his fasting. I learned later that 'Udayy fasts on Mondays and Thursdays of each week.

Some 20 minutes before the match was over, 'Udayy left his room and was about to leave the stadium. Despite the strict security measures around him, his press secretary was able to draw his attention to my presence. The master thankfully agreed to grant me an interview. I congratulated him on the return of official sports activities and breaking the unfair sports embargo imposed on Iraq. He thanked and welcomed me.

I began the interview by asking how he felt about the breaking of the sports embargo and the arrival of more than 40,000 Iraqi supporters at the International al-Sha'b Stadium to attend the al-Wahdat-al-Zawra' match. He said:

This is a good opportunity to thank the brothers in Jordan and Qatar, through you, for their recent initiative to lift the sports embargo imposed on Iraq. This is not strange for Jordan due to its deep-rooted relations with Iraq, particularly under the difficult circumstances over the past five years. God willing, this will be a good beginning and an opening to break the unjust blockade clamped on our country in a way that will allow Iraq to serve our nation and our Arab people in Jordan and elsewhere.

At the start of the Olympic soccer playoffs for the eighth Asian group which includes Jordan, Qatar, and Iraq, and after the initiative of Qatar and Jordan to convey to the International Federation of Football Associations [FIFA] their consent to play in Baghdad, something which contributed to lifting the international soccer embargo imposed on Iraq, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who has been chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and Football Federation for approximately 10 years, and who is more well known than his brother Qusayy thanks to his sports activities and great successes, the most important of which was Iraq's qualifying for the Mexico World Cup finals in 1986, said: We were happy with reaching the Olympic finals. However, we would have been happier had we not always played with the Jordanian and Qatari brothers. I mean had the competition not been among us and the Jordanian and Qatari brothers. Anyway, I believe, as all Iraqis do, that any team that reaches the finals, whether the Iraqi, Jordanian, or Qatari team, represents all Arabs. This team will also have the honor to represent the Arab and Asian soccer.

It is worth noting that Iraq's Olympic team left Baghdad last Saturday for Amman en route to Doha where it will begin its journey in the Olympic finals by playing with Qatar on Friday. It will also meet the Jordanian Olympic team on Friday, 29 September.

After I congratulated the master on the Iraqi wheelchair basketball team's great achievement in Amman last month by qualifying for the North Africa and Middle East regions to the Atlanta Olympic finals next year, I asked him about his viewpoint and that of Iraq on the Atlanta Olympics, especially since the Iraqis viewed the basketball team's qualifying as being an Iraqi sports invasion of the United States and compensation for the historic and golden opportunity the Iraqi national team lost at the America 1994 mondial, and how he views Iraq's participation in in the Atlanta Olympics.

'Udayy Saddam Husayn said: You know how important it is to have interaction in all kinds of sports and to maintain contacts with sports activities outside one's country. Matters have regressed in this field over the past five years, although we, as Iraqi players, have done what we can to play outside Iraq. Although interaction was minimal, we continue to pin our hopes on the Iraqi athletes, and we hope, God willing,that they would be able to achieve something and to fulfill our aspirations.

Before ending my questions on sports, I asked master 'Udayy Saddam Husayn to address the fraternal Qatari people as Qatar was the first Gulf country to receive Iraqi players and coaches and to host the Iraqi national team in the previous world cup finals, and because the Qatari al-Wakrah soccer team took the initiative and visited Baghdad last year. Addressing the Qataris 'Udday said: The brothers in Qatar have a special place in our hearts. He added: We do not view matches from

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the perspective of gains and losses. The most important thing is to meet and to maintain sports interaction between the two countries.

I returned from Baghdad with the first interview the master has ever granted to a Jordanian paper. I saw that 'Udayy has kept his post with all the prerogatives resulting from his being president of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and the Soccer Federation contrary to the rumors spread by some spiteful western media organs.

'Udayy was confident and spoke eloquently during the entire meeting. He replied spontaneously to the questions. It seemed to me that had it not been for our being in the international al-Sha'b stadium, surrounded by many of his advisers and other officials, he would have continued talking. When I asked one of his advisers if I could have my picture taken with 'Udayy, the latter asked his personal photographer to take the picture and told me he would send me copies after they are developed. Iraqi Television covered the meeting and most probably aired it.

I also have to offer special thanks to 'Abbas al-Janabi, press adviser to master 'Udayy, who was very kind to me although I admit I caused him embarrassment by some of the questions I addressed to master 'Udayy. Later, I understood that master 'Udayy wanted only to speak of sports activities.

International Standards for Sanctions Proposed

JN1809173195 Baghdad INA in English
1300 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 18, INA—In response to an appeal issued by the Legal Committee of the London-based International Commission of Inquiry on Economic Sanctions which drafted a new international convention on economic sanctions with the aim of reinforcing the Charter of the United Nations and rescuing the organization from dispute and disintegration, the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference (APFC) has submitted a range of proposals and notions to be part of the new International Convention of Economic Sanctions, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper says.

Commenting on the appeal, the APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said the new projected convention has brought forth a spate of positive ideas calling for the amendment of the existing UN Charter which gives the Security Council broad powers while preventing the UN General Assembly from the status of standing to the resolutions and decisions being taken by the Council (Chapter 12 of the Charter).

Notwithstanding the fact that the new convention tries to grant the Assembly a sort of powers which it does possess under the existing provisions of the UN Charter, yet we are as Iraqis experiencing worst economic sanctions ever witnessed in the history of the global body, still have our own ideas and position whose enrollment or mergence into the new international convention would boost its goals and contents, Mr. Hammudi elaborated.

We, however, Mr. Hammudi added, took into consideration that our ideas and proposals be liable to a wider scale of arguments and discussions and mostly concurrent with general rules of the UN Charter. We called for the adoption of international standards which may form new guidelines for the UN measures on sanctions. These standards are in fact not alien to the comprehensive UN principles. They have been derived from the charter itself and from the position paper issued by the UN secretary general on January 3, 1993 (Document A/500/1) on the grounds that it is an annex to the document of agenda for peace in addition to a study compiled by the Sub-Commission on Human Rights (Document E/CN/4/Sub-2-1994.39) of 14 June, 1994.

The APFC paper was sent to the International Non-Governmental Conference on Sanctions held in London on August 19-20, this year. The conference was called for by the International Commission of Inquiry on Economic Sanctions.

Following are the points of the APFC paper:

Having recognized that the UN Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the developing countries have considerably increased over the past five years, noting that these sanctions have brought about serious negative impacts on the life of civilians especially their enjoyment of fundamental human rights such as the right of decent standard of living with sufficient food, medicine and proper health and hygienic standard and other humanitarian needs;

Considering that these sanctions have transferred the international law on the right of the people to have free disposal of their natural resources without being deprived of their normal source and system of living;

Noting in particular that enforcement of these sanctions have created a number of difficulties that entail the setting up of legal international standards requiring all UN organs and agencies to comply with scrupulously so that the credibility of the world organization may be maintained among nations and member-states and help curb the domination of unipolar system, and as these standards should, to every extent rely on the Charter of

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the United Nations and the reports of the UN secretary general, we propose the following:

1. The targets for which the economic sanctions have been imposed should be decisively clear-cut and be free from any ambiguity, while their effect should be terminated as soon as the targets are achieved. The targets should, under any circumstances, not be changed or modified in a later stage as to serve political motives of a state or a group of states. (Para 68 of secretary general's position paper-document A/50-/1 of 3/1/1995).

2. The rules of the UN charter on sanctions confirm that the purpose of imposition of sanctions is to put right an attitude or conduct of a party threatening the international peace and security and not to punish that party or chastise it in a way or another. (Para 66 of position paper).

3. Para 2 Article 24 of the charter should be applied scrupulously, i.e., the Security Council should not in accordance with the purpose of the United Nations and in a combined manner as laid down in article (1) of the charter. In other words, the sanctions as a means for peace keeping should not turn into a weapon injurious to the right of the peoples in self-determination or violate the fundamental freedoms and human rights.

4. Sanctions should not contradict the principle of non- discrimination and equality in sovereignty among member states, and their enforcement should be carried out in good faith (Para 2 of Article 2 of the Charter) aloof from selection or double-dealings in the treatment of nations (Para (1) of Article 2 of the Charter).

5. In the case of enforcement of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the sanctions should, in no way affect the inalienable (indispensable) rights of the nations in the free disposal of their natural resources and no people is to be deprived of the sources or causes of its living and this is clearly illustrated in Para 2 of Article 1 of the International Declaration on Human Rights issued. Human relief aid undertaken by the UN should not be regarded as a substitute to the right of the people in the disposal of its natural resources.

6. The fundamental rules of the international law on the protection of civilians from the effects of armed conflicts outlined in Geneva conventions of 1949 and the first protocol annexed to them of 1977, should be carefully observed in the procedures of enforcement of sanctions, particularly Para 1 of Article 54 thereof which forbids the starvation of civilians as a means of war.

7. Sanctions should not affect the inalienable rights of the mankind in his bid to free himself from the shackles of hunger, malnutrition and the right to enjoy suitable standard of living in accordance with Article (1) of the World Declaration on Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition issued by the UN General Assembly in 1974 and Article 11 of the Universal Declaration on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights. In the meantime, food should not be used as a means of pressure on the people (Para G of the Preamble of the said declaration and Para 31 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Human rights, Vienna, June, 1993.

8. The suffering of the weak masses in the country targeted by the sanctions should not be used as a means to press the political leaders of that country. Such action is illegal and in the same time frustrating the aims of the sanctions themselves. It will inevitably provoke a patriotic reaction against the international community as represented by the United Nations, while the targeted masses would ultimately rally behind their leaders whose attitude is to be rectified through imposition of sanctions.

9. Children, women, the elderly, and the sick should be excluded from the effects of the sanctions. The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of the Child passed by the international conference held in New York in September, 1990, should be keenly applied along with the genuine enforcement of the world conventions concerning the tight of the child in life, survival, growth, and development, in accordance with the standards adopted by UNICEF while the material, nutritional and medical elements should be made available to him so that all children in the country under sanctions may enjoy such privileges without discrimination.

10. The country under sanctions should be allowed to export goods and commodities to cover the cost of the foodstuff, medicine, medical supplies and other human needs, such as books, educational, scientific, and teaching materials. The standards adopted by the specialized UN agencies and bodies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, and WHO should be used as guidelines in determining such humanitarian needs.

11. Every priority and consideration should be given to the programmes of action adopted in the international conferences and forums in specifying the needs of the country under sanctions and all possible assistance should be extended to facilitate implementation of these programmes and in particular those of:

A. The earth summit, of Rio de Janeiro, June 1992.
B. The International Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993.
C. The World Summit on Population and Development, Cairo, Sep 1994.

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D. The World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, March 1995.
E. The 4th International Women Conference, Beijing, Sep 1995.

Clandestine Radio on Efforts To Form New Government

NC1909144795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts to form a new government in Iraq have failed after several Iraqi personalities refused to participate, while others accepted participation only under certain conditions. Informed sources have said the attempts Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi and Dr. Mundhir al-Shawi made—at Saddam Husayn's instruction—to approach nationalist personalities concerning the formation of a new government under Hammadi's chairmanship have failed. The Kurdish personalities Hammadi approached and those approached by al-Shawi apologized.

These personalities suggested basic changes involving political pluralism, the freedom of the press, and the Kurdish problem. Hammadi failed to give guarantees on these issues.

According to Iraqi sources, Saddam has abandoned the idea of forming a new cabinet. But he will make wide changes in the present cabinet before the presidential elections game.

Press Comments on Upcoming Referendum

JN1909163295 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 19, INA — Iraqi papers have voiced full confidence that the Iraqi peoples would say "yes for President Saddam Husayn" on the referendum day scheduled for November.

In editorials on Tuesday [19 September], the papers unanimously said Iraqis would use their blood to write "yes for Saddam Husayn" on the referendum card to stick to their hearts and minds for ever.

BABIL newspaper said "those who do not wish us democracy use it as a pretext to justify their acts of aggression. They would be shocked as the Iraqi people say their word."

AL-'IRAQ daily said Iraq is a democratic state, and the Iraqis would say their word away from the enemies' democracy that are the democracy of conspiracy and aggression.

The Iraqi people have known President Husayn very well. He was and will remain their first and only choice, the paper said.

Meanwhile, AL-JUMHURIYAH said the popular referendum will give President Husayn full legitimacy to choose the new formation for the forthcoming period in which Iraq will start a new stage after more than 27 years.

It expressed confidence that the Iraqis' role would be more positive and creative in the stage which follows the referendum and under the leadership of President Husayn.

Sudanese Minister Calls Saddam 'Historic Symbol'

JN1909183495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Defense Minister Staff Colonel Ihsan 'Abd-al-Rahman said President Saddam Husayn's struggle and national and pan-Arab role have made him not only the leader of Iraq but also a historic symbol of the nation.

In a statement to a correspondent for the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Khartoum, the Sudanese minister said the decision of the people's representatives to nominate President Saddam Husayn to the post of president of the republic embodies the Iraqi people's love and pride of his unmatched leadership. This is also a big slap to the false and misleading propaganda agencies, led by the United States and its anti-Iraq circles.

Staff Col. Ihsan 'Abd-al-Rahman said that due to their steadfastness, struggle, and efforts, the Iraqis have managed to overcome the unfair economic blockade, which has been imposed by the aggressors against Iraq for five years. The blockade is an attempt to assassinate Iraq's scientific and cultural progress, which it employed to serve its people and nation, he said.

Law on Establishment of Bayt al-Hikmah

JN1509103295 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 68 of 7 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate:

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 68 dated 11 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira corresponding to 7 August 1995

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In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees to issue Law No. 11 of 1995

Law on Bayt al-Hikmah

Chapter One: Foundation and Aims

Article 1: First: This law establishes Bayt al-Hikmah which shall be based in Baghdad. However, its headquarters may be transferred elsewhere under a decision by the president of the republic.

Second: Bayt al-Hikmah is a scientific cultural institution with a corporate status. It shall enjoy financial and administrative independence.

Article 2: Bayt al-Hikmah shall be under the sponsorship of the leader and President of the Republic Saddam Husayn.

Article 3: Bayt al-Hikmah shall seek to achieve the following aims:

First: Concentrate on studying the history, culture, and heritage of the Arab nation.

Second: Seek inspiration from the spirit and nobility of the Arab nation, revive the fountains of Arab heritage, and use this heritage in the interest of the nation's present, future, and struggle for unity and liberation.

Third: Assert the purity of Arab culture and thought and spread them on the widest possible scale inside and outside the Arab homeland.

Fourth: Study the conditions of the Arab nation and give special attention to researches and studies on social, political, economic, and cultural problems stemming from the development process in the Arab homeland.

Fifth: Attend to studies pertaining to the unity of the Arab nation and the elements of its achievement.

Sixth: Attend to studies and researches which support the Arab struggle movement for liberation.

Seventh: Attend to researches and studies pertaining to the scope of development and the challenges posed by the future of the Arab nation.

Eighth: Attend to studies pertaining to pan-Arab socialist thought and the study of socialism in theory and application.

Ninth: Confront cultural and ideological trends which are aimed at the nation's existence and culture and undertake the necessary researches and studies to diagnose these trends and devise methods of confronting them.

Tenth: Encourage Arab intellectuals, unify their efforts, and exploit their capabilities in protecting the Arab nation's culture from distortions which might divert it from its noble course.

Eleventh: Communicate and interact with human civilization and deepen its ethical and spiritual values in order to serve the Arab awakening plan.

Article 4: Bayt al-Hikmah shall use appropriate means for the achievement of its aims, especially:

1. [cardinal number as published] Contracting authors, writers, researches, and translators inside and outside Iraq for the purposes of authorship, research, and translation.

2. Assign Iraqi, Arab, and foreign writers and researchers to write books and undertake researches for a profitable reward toward fulfilling the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah.

3. Translate major works and researches dealing with the Arab homeland from and into Arabic.

4. Publish books, studies, and university theses related to the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah.

5. Publish and distribute publications, magazines, and periodicals inside and outside Iraq.

6. Acquire copyright on writings and translations by others inside and outside Iraq.

7. Establish ties of cooperation with institutions which are concerned with cultural and intellectual affairs inside and outside Iraq.

8. Organize and hold various cultural activities and functions, including seminars and conferences, in all fields relevant to the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah and also participate in such activities and functions inside and outside Iraq, and in the manner deemed suitable.

9. Assign an annual award to be called "Bayt al-Hikmah Award" to honor intellectuals and thinkers who write books and compile studies relevant to the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah.

10. Establish a library to help writers and researchers in their writings and researches.

Chapter Two: Bayt al-Hikmah Organizations

Article 5: Bayt al-Hikmah shall have a Board of Trustees whose members, including the chairman and the secretary general, should not be less than 5 and not more than 11.

Article 6: The chairman of the Board of Trustees and the member of the board should be:

First: An Iraqi who is not less than 40 and not more than 70 years old.

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Second: Known for his broad culture, education, and competence in the fields of studies, writing, and scientific research.

Article 7: First: The chairman of the Board of Trustees and its members shall be appointed by a republican decree for a four-year term, which shall be renewable.

Second: The chairman of the Board of Trustees shall have a special grade and exercise the powers which, under the laws and regulations, are assumed by the chairman of an organization which is not linked to a ministry, and in as much as it applies to Bayt al-Hikmah.

Third: The members of the Board of Trustees shall enjoy the privileges of those with special grades. Their monthly remunerations shall be fixed under a decision by the president of the republic.

Article 8: First: The Board of Trustees shall elect from among its members by secret ballot and majority vote a vice chairman for the board for a two-year term, which shall be renewable.

Second: The vice chairman of the Board of Trustees shall replace the chairman in his absence.

Article 9: First: The Board of Trustees shall strive to achieve the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah. And in pursuance of these aims, it shall enjoy the following powers:

A. Exercise general control over the organization of Bayt al-Hikmah's cultural, scientific, administrative, and financial affairs.

B. Approve Bayt al-Hikmah's annual program and discuss its long-term plans.

C. Approve the holding of and the participation in scientific and cultural conferences.

D. Endorse contracts which the secretary general concludes with authors, writers, researchers, and translators.

E. Determine compensations for authors, writers, researchers, and translators.

F. Grant honorary membership in Bayt al-Hikmah to Iraqi, Arab, and foreign intellectuals and thinkers who have rendered great scientific service relevant to the aims of Bayt al-Hikmah.

G. Name the winners of Bayt al-Hikmah Award.

H. Prepare the annual draft budget of Bayt al-Hikmah.

I. Approve the final accounts.

Second: The Board of Trustees may empower the chairman with some of its jurisdictions.

Article 10: First: The Board of Trustees shall meet once a month at least.

Second: The Board of Trustees shall be considered as having achieved a quorum with the presence of two thirds of its members including the chairman or the vice chairman.

Third: The board shall have a secretary who must hold a first university degree at least.

Article 11: Bayt al-Hikmah shall have a full-time secretary general, who shall be appointed by a presidential decree for a four-year term, which shall be renewable.

Second: The secretary general shall be the rappoteur of the Board of Trustees.

Third: The monthly remuneration of the secretary general shall be specified in a decision by the president of the republic. He shall be given the remuneration or wage of the post he occupied before taking up the job of full-term secretary general. plus the allowances of the new job, whichever is higher.

Article 12: The secretary general of Bayt al-Hikmah shall assume the following duties:

First: Implement the annual program of Bayt al-Hikmah.

Second: Follow up on the implementation of the Board of Trustees' decisions.

Third: Organize correspondence and relations with the quarters dealing with Bayt al-Hikmah.

Fourth: Manage and control administrative and financial work in Bayt al-Hikmah and exercise the jurisdictions which a director general assumes under the laws and regulations, in as much as they apply to Bayt al-Hikmah.

Fifth: Follow up on the recommendations of seminars and conferences and implement those which are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sixth: Carry out whatever tasks and duties assigned to him by the Board of Trustees.

Article 13: First: The Board of Trustees shall be assisted by an Advisory Board consisting of not more than 30 Arabs from inside and outside the Arab homeland who are known for their serious contributions in enriching Arab culture and thought and also known for their honest affiliation to pan-Arab thought.

Second: The Board of Trustees shall select the members of the Advisory Board for a four-year term, which shall be renewable.

Third: The Board of Trustees shall specify the compensations for the members of the Advisory Board.

Fourth: The Advisory Board shall meet at the invitation of the Board of Trustees at least once a year in Iraq or

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in any other Arab country in order to deliberate with the Board of Trustees or its representatives on Bayt al-Hikmah's progress, activities and programs.

Chapter Three: Sections of Studies in Bayt al-Hikmah

Article 14: First: Bayt al-Hikmah shall have the following scientific study sections:

A. Historical Studies Section
B. Islamic Studies Section
C. Philosophical Studies Section
D. Legal Studies Section
E. Political Studies Section
F. Social Studies Section
G. Economic Studies Section

Second: The Board of Trustees may establish other study sections when needed.

Article 15: The head of a study section shall be appointed under a decision by the Board of Trustees.

Second: The head of a study section shall be linked to the chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Third: The head of a study section shall enjoy the privileges which are enjoyed by a faculty dean in Iraqi universities.

Fourth: A study section shall consist of full-time and part-time researchers and several assistant researchers.

Fifth: A study section shall have a number of qualified secretaries.

Sixth: Study section members with higher university degrees shall enjoy the same privileges that are enjoyed by their counterparts in the universities in terms of wages, scientific promotions, and remunerations for university service.

Chapter Four: Administrative and Financial Affairs

Article 16: First: Bayt al-Hikmah shall have the following administrative and financial departments:

A. Administrative and Personnel Department.
B. Accounts Department.
C. Information and Library Department.
D. Publication and Distribution Department.

Second: A department shall be run by an employee who holds a first university degree in its particular field. He shall be responsible for following up on the implementation of its tasks. He shall be linked to the secretary general of Bayt al-Hikmah.

Third: The Board of Trustees may create other departments when necessary.

Article 17: The revenues of the budget of Bayt al-Hikmah shall consist of:

First: The annual grant which shall be determined by the president of the republic.

Second: The annual grants which are offered by Iraqi universities and cultural institutions.

Third: Revenues which Bayt al-Hikmah obtains from the sale of its books, publications, and periodicals as well as from other activities and any savings which are transferred from previous years.

Fourth: Grants and donations from Iraqi or Arab individuals and groups with the approval of the president of the republic.

Chapter Five: General and Final Rules

Article 18: First: Employees of Bayt al-Hikmah shall be subject to the Law on Civil Service and the Law on the Discipline of State and Socialist Sector Employees. These employees shall receive the wages and allowances which are received by their counterparts in the universities.

Second: A full-time employee in Bayt al-Hikmah shall retain the wage and allowances he used to receive in his previous employment.

Article 19: The chairman of the Board of Trustees may, with the approval of the board, issue guidelines to facilitate implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 20: This law shall be implemented 60 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Saddam Orders Monthly Allowances for Teachers

JN1409182595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[From the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of monthly allowances to teachers. He also ordered that the service of those who graduated from secondary education in the specializations of Islamic education, the Arabic and English languages, and mathematics be considered as an alternative to military service after these teachers have completed basic military training.

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Industrial Sector Fails To Meet 'Shortfall'

JN1609063895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 4

[Report by Jum'ah Suhayl]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economists and the Union of Iraqi Industries confirm that the private industrial sector has failed to meet the shortfall resulting from the socialist sector's withdrawal from certain industries, noting that many industrialists have turned to small trades to guarantee quick profit. This came in the symposium that was held at the Iraqi Economists Association's headquarters to discuss studies and researches on the private industrial sector's role in strengthening development in the country before and during the blockade.

Following a speech by Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, president of the Iraqi Economists Association, in which he referred to the care and support given to the private sector by the political leadership and called on the sector to assume an honorable national role, several researchers addressed the symposium saying that the private sector's production rates are very low and that many industrialists have resorted to speculating on real estate and importing consumer and luxury goods and abandoned periodic maintenance of the machines and tools that are used in industrial production.

Several economists called for comprehensive planning of the private sector so that it can work side by side with the socialist sector. They emphasized the professional qualifications and loyalty which must be met by the industrial leader and the need to avoid personal decisions. Several industrialists and economists also called for the need to assemble small industries into cooperative complexes to ensure the viability of these industries. Others remarked that the private sector has indulged in waste and avoided industrial investment due to lack of proper, rational guidance on the exploitation of resources.

One economist sited an example by saying that the private industrial sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product does not exceed 1.7 percent. He also referred to the sector's modest growth rate which, he said, is less than the population growth rate. He also said that the private sector's contribution to the fixed capital is less than 1 percent. All these, he said, are indications of the private industrial sector's weakness, which calls for a serious and careful study to enable this sector to assume a more serious role alongside the socialist sector.

During this symposium, which was attended by a number of economists and industrialists, a speech was made by the Union of Iraqi Industries which reviewed the union's role in strengthening development and the efforts which are being exerted by Iraqi industrialists to find local alternatives to imported goods.

Vice President Discusses Agricultural Projects

JN1609062995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has affirmed the need to set the goals of implementing irrigation projects and to give priority to agricultural projects with big returns in order to serve the agricultural process and ensure the strategic crops that will achieve food security and foil the unfair blockade. He said: The present phase calls for the investment of all capabilities and resources, the application of scientific and practical ideas by those engaged in this important sector, and the enlightened participation of the peasants to achieve the sought-after results; chiefly, the success of the various cultivation campaigns and the consolidation of the peasants' link to the land.

The vice president, who was heading a plenary meeting of the Agricultural Committee in Dhi Qar Governorate and the Agricultural Subcommittees in the districts of Suq al-Shuyukh and al-Jabsh in the governorate attended by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi; comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in the governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar; Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir; and Dhi Qar Governor Salah 'Abbud Mahmud, called for implementing irrigation projects in Suq al-Shuyukh and al-Jabsh Districts and for using the last quarter of this year to complete several irrigation projects in Suq al-Shuyukh District. He also called for setting similar priorities for next year to complete the Umm al-Nakhlah irrigation project in Karmat Bani Sa'id Subdistrict as well as setting priorities for 1997 to complete irrigation projects. These projects are being carried out by the state engineering effort in the two aforementioned districts for the purpose of reclaiming as many agricultural lands as possible and distributing them among the people in the two districts to achieve stability for the peasants and farmers. By doing this they can plant strategic crops in the coming seasons to witness a qualitative expansion in agriculture and production. [passage omitted]

Ministry Reports Rise in Fetal Abnormalities

JN1609065395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent statistics released by the Health Ministry show a rise in the rate of fetal

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abnormalities and deaths among children and old people due to an acute shortage of food, medicine, and medical supplies.

A responsible source in the ministry has explained that the deterioration in the nutritional condition of pregnant mothers has negatively affected the growth of the fetus. This, in turn, has led to an increase in the rate of infants who are born less than 2.5 kg in weight, he said. In 1990, the average weight for newly born infants was 4.5 kg, he added.

The source also said: The deaths included children seven years old and younger due to lack of medicines, nutritious food, and the medical milk "isomil," which is given to children who are deficient in enzymes. The supply of "isomil" has dropped to 7 percent of what it was during the pre-blockade years.

The source pointed out that the five years of blockade have resulted in the banning and obstruction of the importation of medicines, medical supplies, and laboratory diagnostic equipment. He added: Local production is not sufficient to meet actual needs. The supply of medicines for chest diseases, allergies, and asthma has dropped to 39.9 percent of what it was before the years of the unjust blockade. Anesthetics, which are used in surgery have also dropped to 57.8 percent. All this has had its effects on routine and emergency operations.

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Shahal Comments on Hijacked Plane, Ron Arad

TA1909155095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the face of it, the Iranian plane affair has nothing to do with Ron Arad and his supposed presence in Iran. We have heard the prime minister say that he does not want to address the issue of a possible linkage between the incidents.

[In a recorded passage earlier on the same newscast, in reply to a question whether "Israel intends to make the release of the plane conditional on the receipt of information about Ron Arad?," Rabin says: "I will not deal with such questions at this time."]

Several opposition members, however, have contacted the prime minister, demanding that he not free the Iranian passengers before Tehran provides us with information regarding captive navigator Ron Arad. Knesset Member [MK] Yosef Ba-Gad even filed an appeal with the High Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

We asked Police Minister Moshe Shahal: Is Israel considering the option to use the plane crew and passengers as a bargaining chip in the issue of Ron Arad, as Likud MK's Moshe Badash and Dov Shilansky demand?

[Begin Shahal recording] Absolutely not. With all due respect to MK's Badash and Shilansky, Israel is a state of law. We do not hold hostages to demand what is our right, especially not civilians and innocent passengers. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We asked Shahal: Will Israel grant asylum to the hijacker or perhaps passengers who ask for it?

[Begin Shahal recording] He will remain here at this stage, primarily for questioning. We have a problem, however — hijacking a plane is not a welcome thing. It is too early to address the legal aspects of this affair, I believe. Clearly, we are not turning him in or handing him back; he stays here. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Deputy Minister Dayan Discusses Hijacking

TA1909173795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ron Arad's family says that the government should have taken advantage of the hijacking affair to obtain some gesture from the Iranians regarding their son. The mother, Batya Arad, said that she feels betrayed by her nation and especially by her government.

In reaction, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said he does not accept this comment. Among the people and the leadership there is a national consensus of solidarity with Mrs. Arad, and everybody feels a duty to do everything to bring about Ron Arad's release. According to Dayan, already in the morning, when it was learned that the plane was going to land in Israel, discussions took place on how to use the affair to score an achievement on the matter of the captive navigator. Still, he said, Israel should behave cautiously regarding the Iranian plane issue since we have always struggled against blackmail and plane hijackings. [passage omitted]

Army Imposes 'Indefinite' Closure on Gaza Strip

TA2009060595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israel army has imposed an indefinite closure on the Gaza Strip. Residents of the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to enter Israel.

Closure Due to 'Terror' Alert

TA2009085495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] clamped a closure on the Gaza Strip after receiving warnings about a planned terror attack inside Israel. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. The duration of the closure has not yet been announced. Gaza residents will not be permitted to enter Israel, but the transfer of goods through the Qarni crossing point will continue.

Rabin: Action Against 'Terrorism' Condition for Talks

TA2009100495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 95 p A6

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday warned that "if the PLO does not act firmly enough against terrorism, we may reach a situation in which we will have to suspend the political negotiations with the Palestinian Authority [PA], with all the domestic and international ramifications such a step would entail, even regarding the future of our relations with the Arab countries." Rabin made these remarks during a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [passage omitted]

Rabin hinted that if the PA does not extradite to Israel the murderers of Israelis who have escaped to the autonomy area, mainly those who murdered Uri Shahor and Ohad Bachrach in Wadi al-Qilt, the continued release of Palestinian security prisoners will be reconsidered. Rabin said that until he receives the

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legal opinion prepared by Attorney General Ben-Ya'ir stating that the sentences meted out to the suspects are not legally valid and do not exempt the PA from extraditing them, he will continue to believe that "they are detaining the suspects, trying them, and imprisoning them. I thought this was good enough, but now it transpires that this is not the case."

The prime minister added that he is extremely concerned about PA violations of the agreement, mainly in three areas: A. The violations involving the issue of extradition, mainly the PA's failure to extradite the murderers of Shahor and Bachrach. B. Insufficient efforts by the PA to eradicate terrorism in the area under its control. C. The remarks made by Chairman 'Arafat in videotaped passages. Answering a question posed by Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin, Rabin said he has ordered the Intelligence Branch to follow the comments made by 'Arafat in videotapes. "Despite the fact that the violations are of a serious nature, they will not affect the continuation of negotiations," Rabin said.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 September publishes on page 12 an ITIM report saying: "Another videotape showing PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat praising terrorists was revealed yesterday by the Institute for Peace Education. 'Arafat is shown celebrating the start of the school year with girls in Gaza and praised them as being part of the "revolution" as were Abir Wahidi, the man who murdered Tzvi Klein in 1991. "With strength and blood we will redeem Palestine," the girls said. The video of 'Arafat speaking on Palestinian television on 3 September was translated and prepared by Yig'al Karmon, former terrorism adviser to prime ministers Rabin and Shamir."]

Rabin Briefs Committee on Talks With Palestinians

TA1909120995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel is close to an agreement with the Palestinians, although there is as yet no agreement on the map for Hebron. Rabin stressed that any arrangement with the Palestinians will ensure that the Jewish holy sites and religious institutions remain under Israel's full security and religious responsibility.

He added that when the paving of the bypass roads is completed, it will be possible to hand over additional security powers to the Palestinians. Rabin's remarks to the Knesset committee were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

Rabin: Knesset To Consider Accord After Signing

TA1909154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today expressed the hope that the negotiations with the Palestinians on the Oslo B accord will make rapid progress, but noted that speed will not come at the expense of a tidy agreement that encompasses all problems. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister noted that the accord will include more than 300 pages, including maps. Before its initialing, the agreement will be brought to the government for approval, but it will be presented to the Knesset for endorsement only after it is fully signed in Washington.

It is not yet clear when the signing ceremony will take place. The prime minister says no agreement has been reached yet on the following issues: demarcating the various areas of rule in Judaea and Samaria; the Hebron problem; the holy sites; and the way in which the Jerusalem Arabs will participate in the elections for the Palestinian council. The prime minister noted the intention to grant Hebron a special status, but it is clear that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not leave the town before the paving of the bypass roads is completed.

Attorney General: PA Trial Procedures 'Invalid'

TA1709172095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The attorney general today issued a legal opinion stating that the trial procedures employed by the Palestinians against terrorists wanted for the murder of Israelis are invalid, and that they do not exempt the Palestinian Authority [PA] from its commitment to hand the suspects over to Israel.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that representatives of the families, whose children were murdered in two attacks in Wadi al- Qilt, brought the attorney general's opinion to a meeting with the prime minister today. The meeting is still in progress. The families will ask the prime minister not to sign the Oslo B agreement until the extradition matter is settled.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 17 September, reporting after the families' meeting with Rabin, adds that while "the bereaved parents had the prime minister's full attention, they failed to obtain any promises."]

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Opposition, Coalition Opposed to Oslo Agreement

TA1809142295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The debate over Knesset Member Zvulun Hammer's proposal to hold a national referendum on the Oslo B agreement continues. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that the most legitimate way to find out what the people think is elections and not a national referendum. Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi had reservations about the idea, saying it was a superfluous move. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the coalition also rejects the referendum idea. Minister Shulamit Aloni said she does not know of a system of private national referenda, and Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said it is an attempt to bypass the Knesset and harm democracy.

Bomb Safely Defused at IDF Base in Gaza

TA1809194895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, a makeshift bomb was found at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] firing range in the Qatif Bloc area. Soldiers found it when they arrived there for shooting practice. A Border Police bomb-disposal squad defused it. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the bomb was placed inside an old mortar shell.

Spokesman Cited on Missiles Fired at Hizballah Bases

NC2009112195 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept 20 (AFP)— Israeli helicopters fired missiles at bases of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in southern Lebanon on Wednesday [20 September], an army spokesman said.

The aerial assault, which spokesman described as "very accurate", took place near Jabal Safi, to the north of the security zone the Jewish state occupies in Lebanon.

All the aircraft returned safely to base, he added.

In Lebanon, police and Hizballah said Israeli warplanes had carried out mock raids over Hizballah strongholds over the Iqlim al- Tuffah heights and al-Nabatiyah in south Lebanon early Wednesday and helicopters fired machine guns at valleys and hills but left no casualties.

Hizballah claimed responsibility on Tuesday for two attacks in the occupied zone which left one Israeli soldier dead and three wounded.

Artillery Corps Unveils 2 New Firing Systems

TA1909142995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Artillery Corps today unveiled a multiple-barrel rocket launcher and a self-propelled gun with a sophisticated navigation system. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a firing display of the two new weapons took place at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base in central Israel this morning. It was observed by the chief of staff, the U.S. ambassador, the chief Artillery officer, IDF generals, and senior officers.

Chief Artillery officer Shuqa Dorfman said that the rocket system was bought with U.S. aid funds and gives us a range, fire delivery force, and rate of fire that we have not had so far. He added that the new systems the Artillery Corps has received constitute a second revolution in the corps, one in which every gun team knows its exact position and can open fire in two minutes.

Murayama Pledges Cooperation for Peace Process

OW1809004395 Tokyo KYODO in English 2307 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin Sunday [17 Septeber] that Japan will cooperate in helping bring peace to the Middle East, Japanese officials said.

Murayama, who arrived here Saturday night from Damascus for the fourth leg of his five-nation Middle East tour, became the first Japanese prime minister to visit the Jewish state.

During the 90-minute talks with Rabin at the prime minister's office, Murayama called for Rabin's further efforts toward establishing peace in the region.

The Japanese prime minister said Japan will contribute to peace in the region through assistance to the Palestinians and multilateral negotiations.

Murayama said Japan is ready to dispatch officials to monitor upcoming elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Rabin told Murayama that negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization must be continued even if terrorism continues.

The Israeli prime minister called for Japan's economic assistance to Palestinian self-rule areas, saying when peace is established there, efforts for economic reform will be needed and Japan bears responsibility.

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Murayama said Japan has decided to send self-defense forces personnel to take part in UN peacekeeping mission in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in southwestern Syria next February.

Rabin praised the decision and stressed safety in the area, saying no one has been killed in UN peacekeeping operations there in the past 19 years.

Murayama told Rabin that Japan will provide grant-in-aid for the replacement of a bridge which serves as a key link between Israel and Jordan over the Jordan river, the officials said.

He said Japan wants to send a fact-finding team to Israel this year to investigate the project to replace the Allenby Bridge, named after British Viscount Edmund Allenby, a Field Marshal who led the Palestine campaign in World War I.

Murayama also stressed that Japan wants Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority to decide as soon as possible which is to have control of the bridge.

Rabin agreed with him on the need for an early decision on control of the bridge.

Murayama also told Rabin that Japan wants to establish an office of the government-affiliated Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Israel as early as possible after 1997.

Rabin welcomed the increased opportunities for Japanese investment this would bring, saying that although trade between the two countries depends primarily on private industry links, the two countries can assist by providing the right conditions.

Murayama said that if a JETRO office is set up, Japanese corporations would take an active interest in trade links with Israel.

Japanese Aid to Syrian Nuclear Program Criticized

TA2009133795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 20 Sep 95 p 3

[Commentary by Dani Leshem: "A Japanese Love Affair"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that the Japanese prime minister is more optimistic than his Spanish counterpart about al-Asad's intentions on the peace process. Murayama has received the impression that al-Asad is committed to the process, is interested in resuming the negotiations with Israel, and "understands the economic and political benefits" he stands to gain from peace.

What is the source of this gap in the perception of the two leaders? Perhaps its roots lie in the fact that, according to a Japanese diplomatic source, Japan is considering giving Syria a loan to establish a 600-megawatt nuclear power plant north of Damascus. In such circumstances, it stands to reason that al-Asad would spare no effort to convince his Japanese guest of his ardent desire to advance the peace process, that he would rave about the fruits of peace, and would — as he is wont to do — blame Israel for the current stalemate. Would anyone behave differently toward a rich banker considering financing a factory for him?

It is a shame that al-Asad did not coordinate a meeting between Mr. Murayama and the head of his Center for Scientific Studies and Research, who is in charge of Syria's nonconventional armament program and ballistic missiles, as well as with the head of Syria's Atomic Energy Institute. Over the last few years, these two officials have been occupied in efforts to further a secret nuclear program, which is still at its initial stages. It should be noted that although it has hardly managed to establish, with Chinese aid, a small research nuclear reactor, Syria has already signed a deal with Argentina for establishing a much larger research nuclear reactor. This deal having hardly been signed, we are now informed about Japan's intention to finance a nuclear power plant in Syria.

Has the Japanese prime minister carefully considered to whom he wants to grant such a prize, namely, to somebody who has not only impeded the peace process, but who has recently worked closely with Iran toward a rapprochement with Iraq while at the same time sending broad hints to Washington and Jerusalem about his ability to threaten the peace process and the region's stability. Before reaching a final decision, will Murayama take into account Syria's support of terrorism, whether from Damascus or Lebanon, and whether it is directed against Israel or Turkey?

Granting aid of a nuclear nature is undoubtedly the worst way the Japanese Government can go about trying to obtain an entrance ticket to the UN Security Council. In such circumstances Israel should certainly not support its acceptance, and hopefully the United States will do the same. Is not the financial aid given by Japan to Iran — which makes it all the easier for this outlaw regime to finance its nuclear plan — bad enough? Does it want to help create more North Koreas in our region?

Russia Visit Said To Change Rabin's Views

TA1709140995 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 95 p 9

[Commentary by Moti Bassok: "Still a Superpower"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Do not underestimate us; Russia is still a superpower," Prime Minister Yitzhaq

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Rabin was told by three leading Russian officials — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev — in three separate meetings he held in Moscow on 14 September. Chernomyrdin, who last met Rabin in April 1994, asked the prime minister several times: "Why do you not call me? Why do you not keep in touch? Why should we not speak on the phone at least once a month?" Rabin was stunned.

Every visit by an Israeli prime minister to Ukraine or Russia is important, even if it lasts 24-48 hours. Ukraine is "only" the second largest country in Europe, with 52 million citizens. The visit Rabin paid to the two most central countries of the former USSR on 12-14 September left a very strong impression on him and will make him rethink two central issues in Israeli foreign policy in the coming days. As a matter of fact, the rethinking of Israel's relations with Russia and view of the war in former Yugoslavia started on the night of 14 September, on board the Israel-bound flight.

Since the USSR collapsed, Israeli Governments have tended to politically, economically, and militarily disregard Russia, Ukraine, and the East European countries. While in Moscow, Rabin very frankly told his Russian hosts that Israeli policy is based on its strategic alliance with the United States. All the recent Israeli Governments have also attributed great importance to Israel's relations with the EU, primarily Germany. Russia has been viewed as a giant that collapsed and cannot get up. This attitude included elements of rejoicing at the USSR's misfortune, but also a sense of suspicion and respect, a desire to get an economic foothold in the giant market and the vast possibilities it entails, and the Jewish issue, of course.

During the three days Rabin spent in Kiev and Moscow, he realized that Israel was wrong in downplaying Russia. Russia may no longer be a superpower, but it certainly is a major power. In a world where so many drastic changes take place, Israel cannot afford not to cultivate good and warm relations with the Kremlin. Russia is beginning to rehabilitate many of its economic spheres. Speaking on television last week, Professor Hayim Harari, one of Israel's top scientists, listed Russia's scientific community as being among the world's leaders. And no politician in his right mind would discount Moscow's military potential, even today.

In Ukraine, Rabin received the red-carpet treatment. President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov, and Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko really went out of their way to make the prime minister's stay in their country as pleasant as possible. Even before he left Jerusalem, Rabin knew that Ukraine considers Israel a convenient channel to the White House. He was surprised to find that the Ukrainians consider him an appropriate channel through which to relay their requests to the Kremlin in Moscow. During his talks in Kiev, Rabin learned that in every step it takes, the great Ukraine — some 650,000 square kilometers in size — fears its northern neighbor. Kuchma and Shmarov, who have their fingers on the nuclear trigger, are afraid of Boris Yeltsin — militarily, politically, and economically. "Talk to the Russians," they told Rabin, "and ask them not to veto our request to join NATO."

Anyone who spoke to Rabin on the plane back home — and Rabin maintains direct contact with the media — could, judging from both content and tone of voice, sense that the Israeli attitude toward Russia will change. This will be expressed in the imminent meetings between senior Israeli and Russian military officers who are to meet soon to prepare the visit to Israel of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in November.

Rabin had a big surprise coming in his talks with the Russian top echelons in Moscow. He prepared himself to discuss three issues: primarily, the Russian nuclear reactors in Iran; the Middle East peace process; and bilateral relations between Moscow and Jerusalem. The Russians, however, chose to discuss a totally different subject: the war in Bosnia. Rabin very frankly said: I have my own problems to deal with, Iran and terrorism. For as long as it does not affect Israel, I do not particularly care about the Bosnian issue. After talking with Chernomyrdin, Grachev, and Kozyrev, however, Rabin realized that Israel should care about the issue of war in former Yugoslavia. The Russians "attacked" the issue from two angles — the moral, Jewish, and Israeli and the political, global, and regional: Croatia and Bosnia cooperated with the Nazis during World War II; Croats and Bosnians murdered tens of thousands of Jews; and Croatia provided the Nazis with an SS brigade. It is no accident that Germany is the main supporter of Croatia, even today.

And, what is the matter with the United States and the EU? Do they want to establish a Muslim country (Bosnia) in the heart of Europe? The Croats transferred 150,000 Serbs. Just imagine the world's reaction had you done a similar thing to the Palestinians, the Russians said. Russia believes that the U.S. and EU policy in former Yugoslavia is wrong and that they are causing the Serbs great injustice. Their mistakes might start a global fire in the shattered and split country. Russia will not be able sit idly by when its vital interests are being harmed. This might definitely revive the Cold War, they

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threatened, and — just like in the past — it might be expressed in the Middle East as well.

The Russians support the peace process and are very pleased with the developments on the Israeli-Palestinian track. If, however, the Americans continue attacking the Serbs in Yugoslavia, Russia will initiate an independent Middle East policy — for example, in Iraq or Iran — which might run counter to U.S. policies. This kind of policy could harm vital U.S. interests. The Israeli delegation estimated that the nuclear plants deal constitutes the first Russian signal of the threat to resume the Cold War. This threat should send shivers down many spines and turn on warning lights in very many offices. Now it is even better understood why Ukraine is so afraid of Russia.

Very often we wonder about the difference between the actual size of Israel's territory and population, and the political might attributed to it by many countries, some of which are much bigger and stronger. Undoubtedly, the Russian leadership chose to present Rabin with its grave view of the Bosnian issue, seeking to deliver a message to the United States. Chernomyrdin knew that Rabin would be in Washington next week to sign the Oslo B agreement and that, if not, Russia's analysis of the situation in Bosnia would definitely have been placed on Clinton's desk by 15 September.

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French Foreign Minister de Charette Visits

Meets With Bin-Shakir, al-Kabariti

JN1909163895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir has voiced appreciation of France's support of the Middle East peace process. He also expressed satisfaction with France's distinguished role in supporting Jordan in all areas. Premier Zayd told visiting French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette that Jordan was very interested in furthering its relationship at all levels with Europe in general and France in particular.

At the meeting, which was attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, industry and trade, and planning, the prime minister commended France's stands on the Bosnian question. He underlined the need for continued efforts to enable the Bosnians to live within safe and internationally recognized borders. Al-Sharif Zayd also spoke about peace endeavors in the Middle East, stressing the importance of solving all outstanding issues between the Palestinians and Israel. He said that if the two disputed questions of Hebron and Palestinian detainees were settled, that would help strengthen trust in the future of peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Premier Bin-Shakir also highlighted the issue of Jerusalem and its significance for all peoples as a symbol of the forthcoming peace. He called for respect of all UN resolutions on east Jerusalem, which he said he hoped will be the capital of the Palestine state.

The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's determination to join the Europe-Mediterranean partnership, noting that negotiations with the European Union would start next month. He also reviewed the package of economic laws which have been prepared by the government for the peace building era and approved by Parliament. He said the legislations would help create a suitable investment atmosphere in Jordan.

On his part, Mr. de Charette lauded the courageous and wise leadership of his majesty the king. He said France regards Jordan as a cornerstone for setting up a region dominated by peace, stability, and economic prosperity within the context of democracy, freedom, and respect of human rights. The French foreign minister noted that Jordan was setting an example of how to meet the next Barcelona summit views on requirements for cooperation among countries of the Mediterranean. He pointed out that France's participation in the forthcoming Amman economic summit would be very active at both the public and private levels.

Later, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received the visiting French minister. Mr. al-Kabariti praised the level of political, economic, and cultural ties existing between Jordan and France. However, he called for promoting those relations and exploring new horizons for bilateral cooperation.

The foreign minister and his guest reviewed steps and preparations taken by the government to host the forthcoming Amman economic summit. Mr. al-Kabariti reaffirmed Jordan's constant principles on Bosnia-Herzegovina, and said he was very pleased with Paris's stands on the issues. The two men also discussed the latest peace developments in the Middle East. In this regard, the foreign minister lauded the role of Europe in general and France in particular in supporting peace moves and Jordan's endeavors to adapt to the post-peace era.

As part of his talks at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. de Charette and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf signed a new cultural and scientific agreement between Jordan and France.

Holds News Conference

JN1909173695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Sep 95

["Excerpts" of statements by French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette at a news conference with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 19 September — recorded, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] I had very in-depth talks with Jordanian officials. Undoubtedly, you know that I have had the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Marshal Zayd Bin-Shakir, and a number of esteemed cabinet members, of course led by my friend and colleague, Mr. al-Kabariti. I have come to Jordan motivated by the distinguished relations between the two countries. My intention is to further promote the French-Jordanian relations on political, economic, and cultural levels. Jordan plays an extremely important regional role. This is due not just to Jordan's unique geographic location, but also to His Majesty King Husayn's unique personality and influence not only in the region and the Mediterranean, but also in the world. Consequently, it is fruitful to develop our political dialogue and relations. Our economic relations are indeed intensive and active. The French contribution to those economic relations has been enhanced recently. On the cultural level, we have signed a new cultural agreement to replace the past agreement, which dates back to 1965. In other words, it is 30 years old. I

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wish the agreement we signed a long life, hopefully another 30 years. I attach extreme importance to this visit to Jordan. I have a feeling that it has actually been an extremely important moment. His Majesty King Husayn came to Paris on 3 July. In consultation with his excellency the president and his majesty we have decided to open a new leaf in the French-Jordanian relations. I have come here in fulfillment of our promise. However, undoubtedly new leafs in relations will be opened. I warmly welcome the pending future. Thank you very much.

Comments on Iraq, Debt Relief, Peace

JN2009100195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Tuesday his government was committed to supporting the economic development of the Middle East to consolidate the emerging state of peace in the region and described Jordan's role in the region as key to security and stability.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a 24-hour visit for talks on bilateral ties, the Middle East peace process, Iraq and the situation in former Yugoslavia as well as France's participation in next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman, Mr. De Charette also said France and Jordan were to begin negotiations soon on debt relief for the Kingdom.

Mr. De Charette, who held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and several other members of the Council of Ministers, also signed a new Franco-Jordanian cultural accord.

In comments at the press conference, the French minister said Paris believed that a formula had to be found to end the suffering of the Iraqi people straining under the impact of the five-year-old international sanctions on their country and called on Baghdad to meet its obligations under U.N. resolutions related to the Gulf crisis.

Mr. De Charette called on Israel and the Palestinians to work out "suitable solutions, while respecting the rights, priorities and concerns of each other," and conclude an agreement quickly on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank.

He said he intended to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories soon to show French support for the peace negotiations.

The minister defended his country's decision to conduct nuclear tests in the South Pacific as a matter of national security. He said the number of tests and their timing was limited and noted that his country was committed to adopting a total moratorium on nuclear testing next year.

"France agrees to eliminating nuclear arms altogether," he said. "There are plenty of nuclear weapons in the world. Few of them are French and the bulk of the rest are in Ukraine, Russia and Asia. The rest is in the U.S."

"We hope that nuclear weapons will be eliminated," he added, "but we have to think about our security."

Mr. De Charette, on his first visit to the Middle East after taking office in June, described Jordanian-French relations as unique and said the relationship was not limited to politics and economy as evidenced by the new cultural agreement.

The agreement, signed for Jordan by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf, updates a 1965 accord and calls for closer ties in the academic and educational fields as well as archaeology.

The French minister, who arrived late Monday from Egypt and left for home from Amman, said his country attached special significance to its relations with Jordan and the Kingdom's key role in the peace process as well as regional security and stability.

The French government is fully committed to helping the economic development of the Middle East—an essential element to consolidate stability and security in the region," said the minister, speaking through an Arabic interpreter. "We are also particularly supportive of Jordan's economic efforts."

Mr. De Charette said his country will send its minister of trade as well as two other members of President Jacques Charic's cabinet to the MENA summit, which, he added, will make a "very big contribution" to the economic development of the region.

"The public and private sectors of France will play an active role in the summit," which is expected to discuss several billion dollars worth of regional infrastructure and development projects as well as commercial ventures, he said.

Mr. De Charette said a working committee was to begin studying French debt relief for Jordan but did not give details.

The amount involved in a debt-equity swap negotiation scheduled to begin in Paris this week is about $70 million, which will be offered to investors at a discounted rate. Investors will receive the equivalent in

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non-convertible Jordanian dinars for investments in Jordan.

Several French groups have already shown interest in the arrangement and the appropriation of the amount is expected to be relatively quick once Jordan and France agree on the discount rate and other technical aspects, according to diplomatic sources.

France holds about $600 million of Jordan's foreign debts of $5.6 billion. Part of the debts are already rescheduled to periods extending to more than 20 years and another part represents aircraft lease payments due from Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national carrier.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Michael Marto will lead the Jordanian side to the negotiations on the debt-equity swap beginning in Paris on Sept. 22.

Replying to questions at the press conference, Mr. De Charette said Jordanian officials had briefed on the "tragic situation" of the Iraqi people and the need to find means to alleviate their suffering.

"The situation of the Iraqi people is dangerous...," he said. "Therefore, the first priority is to find a solution to that.

"Secondly, the government of Iraq must respect all United Nations Security Council resolutions and if this takes place under the supervision of the world, then the time would be right to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq."

At the same time, "The sanctions will not be lifted unless the Iraqi government complies with all the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," he said, adding that his country believed that Baghdad intended to meet all its obligations to the U.N.

Replying to a question whether France supported any effort to overthrow the regime of President Saddam Husayn in Iraq, Mr. De Charette said: "No. It is strictly an internal affair of the Iraqi people, and we do not involve ourselves in the internal issues of other people."

He also denied that he had sought a meeting with or had met with Iraqi defector Husayn Kamil Hasan, who fled the Baghdad regime to Jordan on Aug. 8.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Crown Prince Hasan, in his meeting with the French minister, underlined Europe's role in the Oct. 29-31 MENA summit. Europe can contribute to the Middle East peace process by participating in the rehabilitation efforts of the region, the Crown Prince said, voicing hope that results of the European Union summit in Barcelona in November will complement those of the MENA summit.

Al-Sharif Zayd and Mr. De Charette discussed regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process. Al- Sharif Zayd praised France's role in supporting the peace process and emphasised the need to overcome the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiators, particularly the ones related to Hebron and Palestinian prisoners.

Al-Sharif Zayd said removing such obstacles would enhance confidence in the future of peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Petra said.

The prime minister stressed the importance of Jerusalem as a symbol of peace for all, and called for respect for all international resolutions on East Jerusalem.

He voiced hope that Jerusalem will be the capital of the state of Palestine.

Al-Sharif Zayd also expressed Jordan's resolve to join the Europe-Mediterranean partnership, saying that Jordan will hold talks next month with the European Union on this subject.

The prime minister referred to the package of economic laws which has been endorsed by Parliament in its extraordinary session. Such a package will contribute to creating a proper investment climate, he said.

The French minister said his country considers Jordan as a cornerstone for a region enjoying security, stability, democracy and respect for human rights.

Mr. al-Kabariti and his French counterpart reviewed preparations for the MENA summit, the latest developments of the Middle East peace process and France's role in supporting the efforts made to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Murayama Confirms Commitment to Middle East Peace

OW1909002095 Tokyo KYODO in English 2310 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama pledged Tokyo's active role in a planned Middle East development bank Monday [18 September] as soon as nations concerned agree on its establishment.

At a press meeting at an Amman hotel concluding his week long five-nation tour of the Middle East, Murayama said, "I expect that nations concerned agree on the establishment of the Mideast Development Bank. Japan is ready to tackle it positively."

Asked about the possible suspension of the second round of yen loans to Iran, the prime minister replied

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Japan shares the international community's concern over Iran's involvement in international terrorism.

Murayama added Japan will pressure Iran to wipe out these concerns.

In opening remarks at the press meeting, Murayama said Japan is ready to commit itself positively in establishing new international relations in the Middle East, recognizing that peace and prosperity in the region benefits the interest of the international community.

Murayama said Japan will promote political dialogue with the Middle East region by stepping up exchanges of key figures.

The prime minister said Japan plans to dispatch a cabinet minister-level delegate for a scheduled Amman summit meeting of the Mideast and North Africa scheduled for the end of October.

Murayama met the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Israel and Jordan as well as Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat during his Mideast swing.

Murayama is scheduled to return to Japan on Tuesday.

Says Tokyo Considering Development Loan

OW1909001795 Tokyo KYODO in English 2307 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told Jordan's King Husayn on Monday [18 September] that Tokyo is considering a 200 million yen loan to Jordan, a Japanese official said.

In a palace meeting, Murayama also told the King Japan is ready to provide grants-in-aid for rebuilding the Allenby Bridge on the Jordan-Israel border, the official said.

On Sunday, a day before Murayama's visit to Amman, Japanese and Jordanian officials exchanged documents on Tokyo's grants-in-aid totaling 1.12 billion yen, including a pollution countermeasure project in the north of the Gulf of Aqaba.

King Husayn expressed expectations for Japan's aid, saying the situation in Jordan has entered a state of peace building, according to the Japanese official.

Murayama requested King Husayn to visit Japan officially. The Japanese prime minister said Tokyo will appeal to Japanese business leaders to attend a scheduled Amman summit of the Middle East and North Africa scheduled in late October.

On the situation in Iraq, Murayama and King Husayn agreed that Iraq should observe all the resolutions by the UN Security Council, the official said.

Murayama was visiting Jordan on the last leg of his five-nation Middle East tour. He left for Tokyo later Monday.

Darwazah: No Agreement To Supply Iraq Oil to Israel

JN2009104495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 20

[Report by 'Isam al-Majali]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has denied that there is an agreement among Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Qatar to supply Israel with Iraqi oil and Qatari gas through Jordan.

In an exclusive telephone dialogue with AL-ASWAQ, Darwazah said that this is out of the question and that what was discussed in Baghdad was a project, which was announced at the time, to install a Jordanian-Iraqi pipeline to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery.

He said that the objective of this project is to supply Jordan with Iraqi oil in order to cover local consumption and to refine it in the future at the al-'Aqabah Petroleum Refinery to export oil byproducts after the UN Security Council allows that. He expected this to take place within four to five years.

The project is expected to save Jordan large amounts of money which it used to pay in transportation costs for its oil imports. This is in addition to the fact that this project is an important source of income aimed at exporting oil byproducts to the world.

Darwazah told AL-ASWAQ that preparatory studies for the projects have not yet been completed nor has a date been set for their implementation.

Asked about reports of a similar agreement on the possibility of installing a Qatari pipeline alongside the new Jordanian-Iraqi pipeline to export Qatari gas directly to Israel, Darwazah said that Jordan is not aware of such projects. News reports had indicated that Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Qatar reached an agreement on s plying Israel and Jordan with oil and gas from Iraq and Qatar.

These reports had mentioned that the aim of the Jordanian-Iraqi oil pipeline was to export Iraqi oil directly to Israel as part of an agreement to gradually involve Iraq in economic cooperation in the region, in

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return for Washington's agreement to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq with the beginning of the new year.

Minister on Ties with Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iraq

JN1909110295 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 2

[Interview with Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, by Khalid Abu-al-Khayr, in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-al-Khayr] We have information that the Tapline, which used to supply Jordan with Saudi oil before the Gulf war, will resume pumping and that this pipeline is undergoing maintenance.

[Darwazah] We always carry out maintenance on the Tapline. We hope relations with the Saudi brothers will return to normal and that they will resume oil exports to us. I am personally ready to accept any Saudi invitation to visit Saudi Arabia.

[Abu-al-Khayr] You concluded an energy agreement with the Israeli side about two weeks ago. It was reported that the agreement contained secret clauses.

[Darwazah] There are no secret clauses in the agreement. Nuclear radiation, as you know, emanates from nuclear reactors owned by the Jews. It was agreed that if anything were to happen on their side they would inform us so we could take precautions. We have to be careful about ourselves and our country.

[Abu-al-Khayr] Was it agreed to form a joint committee to examine radioactivity on both sides of border?

[Darwazah] No agreement was reached on this issue, but we asked them to allow our observers to enter their territory to monitor nuclear radiation there. They agreed to this. We are the only country Israel has allowed to monitor radiation on its territory. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Khayr] You recently visited Iraq — a visit that was earlier postponed. Did the postponement have anything to do with political developments. It is said that the Iraqis asked for the postponement.

[Darwazah] No, the visit was postponed at our request because we were negotiating oil drilling with foreign companies. I do not want to delve into this issue because the press went too far in explaining my statements.

[Abu-al-Khayr] Alright, but we want to know one thing: Who is going to finance the pipeline and the refinery which it was agreed would be set up in al-'Aqabah as stated by the Iraqi oil minister?

[Darwazah] It seems that you insist on discussing this issue. However, it was agreed with the Iraqi side that priority be given to building the oil pipeline, which will cost approximately 250 million dinars, and will be financed by Jordan, because, practically, we are paying about 70 million dinars annually for transporting oil by trucks. A simple calculation shows that what we will pay in four to five years will cover the cost of the pipeline. The government asked us to abide by the Jordanian axial load regulations, which forbid the transportation of petroleum on roads by the end of the year, and we will abide by these regulations.

[Abu-al-Khayr] Are there any new oil agreements with Iraq?

[Darwazah] I have answered a question in this regard and I will not answer another one. There is nothing new; everything is normal and the Iraqi oil is flowing regularly.

Columnist Critical of Iraqi Referendum Plan

JN1909125395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 95 p 24

["The Last Stop" column by Salih al-Qallab: "Dangers of the Proposed Iraqi Referendum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqis will be making a fatal strategic mistake if they conduct the referendum they are talking about for a new term in office for President Saddam Husayn without the participation of the Kurds in the northern part of the country. Otherwise, how can the current-future president claim that he represents all of Iraq and the Iraqi people when a genuine Iraqi part did not participate in this referendum?

The Iraqi leadership must pay attention to this sensitive point. It must also realize that the referendum, which it is talking about in such a way, will place weapons in the hands of the separatist forces. These forces will say that the central government in Baghdad sought to achieve and entrench the secession because it conducted a referendum, which has a constitutional nature, without the participation of the northern part — the Iraqi Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

For more than a third of a century, Iraq, like other Arab states, has been living under a strict Stalinist totalitarian regime. Now, there must be a positive response to the requirements of the age and the domestic and foreign insistence on the need to adopt a democratic course and political pluralism. This response must be balanced and genuine, and not improvised and superficial. Furthermore, it should start from the bottom to the top, and not vice versa. Before holding this referendum, which cannot be anything but superficial and which will impose heavy burdens on Iraq if any of the Iraqi regions are excluded, a solution must be

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found to the Kurdish problem, and before that, genuine solutions must be found to the other Iraqi problems.

I do not believe that the referendum, which the Iraqis decided to hold next month, will change the way in which the current regime is being viewed, both from inside and outside. The old formula concerning the president of the republic may be tolerated for an extra one, two, or more years, provided that breakthroughs take place on other levels and in various important and prominent positions.

Once again, in order for Iraq to put its foot on the right course, the influence of the sons, the cousins, and close relatives must be terminated. Institutions must be given their supposed role, and preparations must be made for logical elections for a sound parliament, Also, a new party law and press and publications law must be legislated and the Olympic Committee's hegemony over the press must end. Channels of national reconciliation must open within the ruling Ba'th Party first, and then with all the Iraqi forces and effective social and political trends.

If it takes place without the participation of part of the Iraqi territory and part of the Iraqi people, this referendum will deal a fatal blow to the Iraqi national unity. Therefore, we hope the Iraqi leadership will not fall into this historical abyss for the sake of a superficial step and a theatrical move, which will not yield the expected and hoped-for results.

Opposition Condemns Libya Expulsion of Palestinians

JN1809124195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian opposition political parties Sunday condemned Libya's expulsion of Palestinians from its territory and demanded that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi reconsider his decision and rescind the expulsion order.

In a statement circulated to the press the political parties said Libyan authorities have expelled tens of thousands of Palestinians and other Arab nationals who have been working and living in Libya for many years.

This arbitrary measure, the statement said, specifically harms the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya because no other Arab state is willing to accept them.

Many of the expellees have been stranded in the desert at the Libyan-Egyptian border for more than two weeks as the Egyptian and Lebanese governments refused to accept them even though they hold travel documents issued in Egypt and Lebanon, the statement said.

It also said that Israel, for its part, is closing the door on the expellees entry because the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians does not provide the right of return to the Palestinians.

The statement said that the expulsion of the Palestinians is taking place at a time when the Arab World is exposed to Zionist- imperialist aggression, adding that Libya and Iraq face sanctions and Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands are under occupation.

Stressing that the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya would increase the Palestinian people's sufferings, the statement said that the move would cause further regional problems not only for the Palestinians but also for the Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees, and such developments would never help end the sanctions imposed on Libya.

The statement demanded that Libya rescind the expulsion order because it is a violation of human rights and harms inter Arab relations.

It said that the Arabs are now in dire need for unity of ranks "to confront the enemy, conspiracies and aggression" and to deal with their common problems.

The political parties' statement came four days after the Lower House of Parliament issued a condemnation of the Libyan measure urging Arab countries to help stop the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya.

The parliament statement described as irresponsible the expulsion order, stressing that the move would remain a black mark in the Libyan leadership's history.

The following political parties signed Sunday's statement: the Islamic Action Front, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Democratic Peoples Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Unity Party and the Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party.

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Afghanistan

Minister Addresses Taleban Plan To Attack Kabul

LD1909120295 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 19, IRNA — Afghanistan's communication minister has termed Taleban's preparation for assault on Kabul city contrary to the interests of people of Afghanistan. He urged all warring factions of the country to come forward for dialogue to end differences.

Qazi Amin Waqqad talking to IRNA in Peshawar Tuesday [19 September] added that Taleban, like in the past, this time will not succeed in taking over Kabul.

He also flayed Taleban for threatening diplomats to leave Kabul and said at the time when Kabul government was busy expanding diplomatic relations with other countries, that warning had no justifications.

He also condemned ransacking of Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and added that Afghan Government was concerned about this incident as it was not in the interest of the people of Afghanistan.

The Afghan minister rejected the allegation, reported in a segment of Pakistani press, that Indian troop had arrived in Kabul for security of the Rabbani government.

He viewed that news like this will aggravate the cordial relations between the two countries.

He praised the Iranian Government's policy of dialogue and understanding, for the solution of the Afghan crisis and welcomed cooperation of all friendly states including OIC in this regard.

Taleban Issues Ultimatum for Rabbani To Surrender

BK2009092795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MEYDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan, Sept 20 (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic militia have given Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his military backers five days to surrender or face an attack on the Afghan capital Kabul by its forces.

The deadline came from a senior Taleban spokesman on the western frontlines here Wednesday [20 September].

"We have given them a five-day ultimatum, starting from today," said Mullah Mishr, the Taleban frontline commander based in the provincial capital Meydan Shahr.

Pro-Rabbani security forces, under the overall command of ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, have been braced for a Taleban offensive from the direction of Meydan Shahr, 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Kabul, for a week now.

Rabbani, UN Envoy Discuss Latest Peace Mission

LD1909173895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received in the Presidential Palace Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy for Afghanistan. First, Mr. Mestiri informed our esteemed president about the new round of his peace mission. He expressed the hope that peace and security will soon be restored in Afghanistan.

Speaking about the political situation in the country and the peace process, esteemed Rabbani expressed the hope that the UN special envoy's efforts will assist with and prove fruitful in the restoration of peace and the stability of the situation in the country in line with the wishes of the Afghan people. The Islamic State of Afghanistan supports any effort, including that of the United Nations, which leads to the restoration of peace in the country. The esteemed president added: As we have said many a time the main problem in the current issues is foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. When the interference ceases, the people of Afghanistan will very soon put an end to the tension and restore a permanent peace in their country. It is necessary that the United Nations helps our people to stop foreign interference.

Report on Disappearance of Diplomats in Pakistan

BK1909102795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Sep 95 p 1,9

[Report by unidentified correspondent: "Afghan Diplomats in Peshawar Disappear"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar—Fearing arrest or reaction in Pakistan, the two leading Afghan diplomats, who were associated with President Prof. Rabbani's Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Shura included Engineer Rahim and 'Abdol Baseer were disappeared soon after fall of Herat to Taleban and attack on Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul.

Engineer Rahim, Islamabad-based first Afghan secretary, was disappeared a few days ago while 'Abdol Baseer, first secretary in Peshawar based Afghan consulate General, has left Peshawar for Kabul on the day when Taleban entered Herat.

Family sources of 'Abdol Baseer have confirmed his departure from Peshawar into Kabul some 14 days ago.

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Likewise, Jam'iyat-e Eslami sources in Peshawar also confirmed departure of Baseer to Kabul. The Peshawar-based Afghan Consulate every day said that 'Abdol Baseer is not present in his office. Before his recent departure into Kabul, 'Abdol Baseer has spent some eight days in Kabul, Herat and Panjsher which is to be the headquarter of Afghan war lord Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Some highly placed official sources told The Nation that on the day of Herat's fall to Kabul, 'Abdol Baseer reached his office at around 8.15 am in the morning and had left the office within 15 minutes.

India

Clash Between Security Forces, Kidnappers Denied

BK1909145495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government today said it has information that the four Western tourists abducted by the Al-Faran group were safe and that it had made contacts with the militant group twice last evening through intermediaries. Giving this information, an official spokesman in Srinagar denied there had been any encounter between security forces and the abductors anywhere in the state. Instructions have been given to all forces not to engage the abductors of the four tourists. He said neither was there any rescue operation planned or launched, nor was there any move to do so.

Commentary Addresses Growing Trade Ties With UK

BK1709140095 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Commentary by M.K. Kaul: "Upswing in Indo-UK Trade Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When a British talks about trade in a serious manner, one should take him seriously, for the British are traditional good businessmen, and it is the business interests which have led them everywhere. Thus, when new British Trade Minister Antony Nelson spoke with Indian ministers and captains of the industry during his three-day India sojourn since Wednesday [13 September], he meant business all the way. It was good to find a matching response with warmth from the Indian side. After all, both the sides realize each other's importance, especially at a time when the developed nations are looking for outside markets and the developing ones for technology and also for foreign investments.

The Indo-British trade has of late been on the ascendancy. For instance, the bilateral trade turnover during the last two and a half years rose by over 50 percent, peaking to a figure of 1.3 billion pounds each way in 1994, and the British have achieved the unique distinction of being second largest new investor in India. A number of major British companies have already made a presence in India. At least 13 Indo-British joint ventures are in operation in Britain in various fields. These include electronic goods, fiscal and other consultancy services.

For Mr. Nelson, it is the first ever overseas visit since his induction into the ministry. In fact, he is on a three-nation tour. It is the U.S., Japan, and India. He came to New Delhi straight from Tokyo, where he reportedly discussed the possibility of Indo- British-Japanese trilateral cooperation. It became the subject matter of talks between him and Mr. Chidambaram, who heads the Indian Commerce Ministry, which is near equivalent of a British Trade Ministry. By November next end, a high-power delegation is expected from Japan to India to pick up the threads of the trilateral proposition from the Japanese point of view.

The upswing in the bilateral trade of the two countries is also on account of drastic changes in India's economic policies and shedding of its inhibitions in policies of international trade and commerce. The feeling that the next century belongs to developing world is gaining ground. In fact, serious studies have shown that if the developing countries maintain the present rate of annual growth of around 7 percent, the rich world's share of global output could shrink to less than two-fifths by the year 2020.

The prime ministers of the two countries—Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao of India and Mr. John Major of the United Kingdom—too must get due credit in giving a fillip to the trade relations of the two nations. In January 1993, when Mr. John Major visited India as the Republic Day parade chief guest, a scheme called the Indo-British partnership initiative was launched to give a boost to a free-ranging institutional framework to accelerate bilateral cooperation in trade and in industry. And Mr. Narasimha Rao's return visit in March '93 helped in keeping up the tempo. Since then, the two governments have been encouraging initiatives by the Indian and British private sectors to set up a mechanism to coordinate their activities.

A glance through the long calendar of events in the last two years or so would show Indo-British economic cooperation as having received a lot of boost. The exchange of trade missions have become a regular feature. Earlier, a high profile 80-member concord mission led by the trade secretary, Mr. Richard Needham, visited India and succeeded in exploring business and joint ventures. That Mr. Nelson's visit will enhance this eco-

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nomic friendship further is to state the obvious. His visit will, however, be remembered here for his emphasis on trade relations between small- and medium-scale enterprises, which otherwise feel shy of competing with the multinational giants.

Commentary Views Potential for Foreign Investment

BK1709124495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Commentary by Dr. R.S. Nigam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the starting of the process of economic reforms, India has attracted Foreign Direct Investment [FDI] to the tune of $1.3 billion. According to the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, if the country continues to have political stability, it can attract another $5 billion to $10 billion of FDI. His projections appeared to be highly realistic, but linkages of FDI inflow with the traditional type of political stability—that is, the same party having government at the center and almost at all the states—does not warrant that much emphasis.

If we look up the experience of other countries, we find that frequent change of governments in countries like Italy, Japan, and South Korea has limited impact on their economic growth, diversification, and global operations. In fact, their global business operations, in both inward and outward flow of foreign direct investment, have increased beyond expectations and projections made by highly accredited economists and institutions. In a real life world, it is the internal strength and democratic institutions of a country which are important factors in attracting FDI.

India has got a number of inherent advantages in attracting the transnational corporations and investment institutions to this economic growth. Diversification and active participation in the process of globalization got accelerated since the start of the Uruguay round of trade negotiations and setting up of the World Trade Organization. It has the advantage of being an open and democratic society and vibrant democratic institutional framework, which guarantees nondiscrimination, fairness, and equity. Its geographical location can very well serve as the supply, manufacturing, and subtracting [as heard] point to almost half the world. Its internal market of 900 million people—of which about 250 million have remarkable purchasing power and cost advantages in terms of labor, transport, professional, and technical manpower— make it better than any other developing country for foreign investors. The other factors include dismantling of the bureaucratic and political controls on national and international business operations, together with vibrant capital market and highly experienced and organized private sector as joint venture partners.

Article Views Emerging Internal Debt Problem

BK1509131995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 13 Sep 95 p 11

[Article by Onaiza Iftikhar: "Till Debt Do Us Apart"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank of India has, in its latest annual report, highlighted the threat that the rising internal debt poses to the fiscal stability of the economy. The contours of the impending crisis are well known: the outstanding stock of internal debt of the Central and state governments is close to Rs [rupees] 6,00,000 crore which, in relative terms, is about 67 per cent of the GDP. An outstanding debt of this magnitude is estimated to result in a budgetary outflow of Rs 52,000 crore for the Centre and Rs 20,000 crore for the state governments during the current financial year. Even after accounting for the interest payment made by the states to the Centre, which amounts to about Rs 13,500 crore as an inter governmental transfer payment, the strain that the debt puts on the revenue budget alone is significant.

However, the concern expressed by the Central bank over the debt situation has not been matched by any innovative suggestions for redressal. The bank has reiterated that the medium terms fiscal policy stance should be to reduce the level of public borrowings, improve tax revenues and reduce expenditure. These policy prescriptions which are unassailable in their logic and long-term consequences have been the stated intent of the fiscal stabilisation package initiated by the central government in 1991. Even with limited success in some of the objectives, the debt situation has, if anything, worsened in the last five years.

The problem with these prescriptions is that they focus almost exclusively on an improvement in the flow variables like fiscal deficit. The stock variables, like outstanding government debt have not received any direct policy attention. Admittedly, to the extent that the flow variables result in the aggravation of stock variables, the policy cannot be faulted. Yet, if we consider that at any given point of time, the flow pattern of a variable is to a large extent influenced by the existing stock position, the concerns of fiscal policy have so far been far from being encouraging.

The relationship between the two types of economic variables— stock and the flow—is mutually reinforcing. The stock of debt influences the flow of expenditure insofar as interest payment form the second largest outgo on the non-Plan revenue expenditure after wages

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and salaries. On the other hand, flow of fiscal deficit over the years determines the stock of debt as fiscal deficit is the incremental accretion to the existing stock of debt.

The malaise afflicting the finances at both levels of government is at a stage where even if the flow variables were to be kept under check it would not reduce the existing stock of debt in absolute terms in the short to medium run. A reduction in the absolute magnitude is important insofar as the budgetary balance is concerned.

In macroeconomic terms, the worsening of the debt problem in recent years is partly one of slow growth. As can be seen from the accompanying graph [not included] until 1987-88 even though the incremental addition to debt was comparatively small the debt/ GDP ratio increased faster. Exactly the obverse is true from 1992-93 onwards. As the growth in national income decelerated, the debt-GDP ratio has increased exponentially.

In fiscal terms, an increasing debt build up strains the budgetary balance as the outgo in terms of interest payments on the revenue account and in the form of repayments in the capital account increase correspondingly. This interest outflow has increased at a faster rate during the last two years primarily because of shift from deficit to debt financing strategy adopted by the government to control inflation.

This is evident from the performance of the Centre and the states after the fiscal reforms were initiated. During the last five years, the fiscal adjustment programme has succeeded in restoring the balance on the primary revenue account. The combined revenue account of the states also reveals that there is a surplus on the primary revenue account i.e. revenue account net of interest payments. In spite of this improvement the debt situation has deteriorated. The solution therefore lies in directly addressing the issue of outstanding stock of debt rather than the reducing the incremental additions to it, which is an appropriate long-term strategy.

In looking for solutions to the debt problem it needs to be recognised that debt of the government is not homogeneous. There are different types of debt be it in terms of the mode of incurrence, the rates of interest, or their macro-economic implications. In the case of the Centre, the small saving and provident funds account for more than half of its total internal debt. Close to one third of Centre's internal debt is owed to the Reserve Bank of India in the form of treasury bills and securities. The rest is accounted for by the commercial banks.

On the other hand, for the states more than 60 per cent of their debt is due to the Centre, and about 15 per cent is in the form of provident funds. The average level and pattern of the states indebtedness conceals significant inter-state variations. With close to 50 per cent of the combined debt of the Centre and the state related more directly to the employment policy of the government and about 20 per cent to the plan financing especially the pattern of state plan assistance, a general solution which focuses entirely on the fiscal variables like deficit reduction appears misplaced if not futile. Unfortunately, the Finance Ministry is yet to come out with a clearly spelt out policy in this regard. It is on auto-pilot, seemingly oblivious to the dangers that lurk ahead.

Meanwhile, given the diverse composition of debt, within and across the two levels of government, it is also difficult to envisage a single point debt reduction strategy. The privatisation of public sector enterprises and the use of those proceeds for retiring of debt, which is currently the favoured option, can at best form a part of what should be a multi-pronged strategy. Given that the share of low income and special category states is more than 50 per cent of the combined debt of the states, this option has limited value in practical terms.

This is apart from the issue of the depth of capital market in the economy which set a limit to the absorptive capacity for disinvestment. In this context, it might be worth the government's while to see if it wants to dispose of only public sector assets- which is controversial—or some of its other assets (like land) as well.

What is therefore required is a holistic package which takes into account not only the composition of debt but also addresses the dynamics of its generation. Such a package could for instance include reworking the Gadgil formula, changing the existing pattern of small savings sharing, providing an efficiency based debt relief to the states and preventing a diversion of resources from the capital account to the revenue account which is currently built into the plan financing. This can be done by redesigning the financing pattern of the state plan so that the revenue component of the plan is matched by the revenue receipts. On the real side, accretion to debt can be reduced by keeping the rate of growth of government employment lower than the rate of retirement.

Editorial Addresses 'Alarming' Interest Burden

BK2009090495 Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 14 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Alarming Signals"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE just-released annual report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which controls

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the monetary vein of the economy, rightly cautions the Central Government on the rising interest burden while reporting buoyancy in the performance of the farm and industrial sectors. Over the years, the government has been resorting to borrowings to bridge the deficit in receipts and expenditure. Non-Plan expenditure, particularly in recent times, has risen steeply. In the first four months (April to July) of 1995-96, non-Plan expenditure increased by 31 per cent as opposed to the target of 18 per cent for the entire year. RBI estimates the interest payments to reach Rs [rupees] 52,000 crore, representing 52 per cent of the revenue receipts during 1995-96. This should account for over two-thirds of the tax receipts. This is, indeed, quite alarming. The new market-oriented policies are expected to further exacerbate the interest payment problem, with the Central Government borrowing more on market-determined interest rates as opposed to earlier concessional rates. In the current year, the Central Government plans to borrow Rs 27,087 crore from the market, up 35 per cent over the previous year. The current trends indicate that a stage may soon come when the entire revenue collection may be consumed by interest payments.

The solution to the problem lies in further improving revenue receipts by plugging loopholes, tightening the belt to contain expenditure and evolving steps to accelerate growth and investments. The position of the State governments is no different, thanks to the persistent disequilibrium between receipts and expenditure. States have been borrowing much more than their respective investment outlay requirements. Political commitments, such as the Rs-2-per-kg rice programme of Andhra Pradesh further aggravate the problem. A prudent "revenue management" policy is called for to set finances in order.

The large borrowings, which ultimately land on consumers' heads, have been causing inflationary pressure. The 1994-95 year-end average inflation, in terms of wholesale price index, amounted to 10.9 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent the previous year, says RBI. This had its own impact on the various consumer price indices (CPIs) such as CPI for industrial workers and agricultural labour. All this underlines the need for better supply management policies, particularly for mass-consuming items, to insulate the consumer against inflationary pressure. Although the agricultural and industrial sectors improved their performance during 1994-95, there is still potential for further growth. While the farm sector is expected to record a growth of about 5 per cent (2.8 per cent in 1993-94), the industrial production rose by 8.4 per cent (5.6 per cent in 1993-94). Food grains production is expected to scale new heights at 189.8 million tonnes during 1994-95, up from 182 million tonnes the previous year. This, coupled with attractive "remunerative procurement prices" had helped improve food grains procurement, resulting in a year-end stock of 27.7 million tonnes - more than double the norms. It may, however, be noted that much of the consistent growth in the agricultural sector in the nineties is mainly due to reasonably good monsoons. This, therefore, reflects the need for proper development programmes consisting of supply of better quality inputs (optimal mix of fertilizers, seeds), modern farming techniques and practices and attracting private investment.

The present policy of "remunerative procurement price" to improve yields, as is known, has an inflationary bias. Industrial production could have been even higher had it not been for the infrastructural constraints such as nonavailability of electric power and transport. Much of the 8.4 per cent growth in industrial production was spearheaded by capital goods and consumer items. The overall growth in real gross domestic products is expected to be marginally higher, around 5.5 per cent in 1994-95 as opposed to 5.3 per cent during 1993-94. This clearly indicates that the liberalised economic policies have yet to bear fruit.

Article Reviews Performance of Economic Policies

BK1909104095 Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Sep 95 p 12

[Article by Alok Mukherjee: "Are the Good Times Over?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As time runs out for the Narasimha Rao government, much of the gloss and shine of the new economic policies is starting to wear out and there have been a spate of reports of late which tend to make out that the economy is in a far worse shape than the government would like to admit. The truth as usual lies somewhere in between.

Two aspects have to be kept in mind while reviewing the economic performance of the present government. One is the short term position where most of the parameters look good. The other is the medium term perspective and there is cause for concern here. The recent report by the Reserve Bank of India brings out this situation clearly while the controversial mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Plan as well as a survey by the International Monetary Fund also refer to these aspects. The accompanying chart [not included] shows some indicators of the economy's performance.

To the credit of the managers of the economy, there are quite a few positive economic indicators as one views the situation. The fiscal retrenchment and monetary tightening in response to the crisis of 1991 had resulted

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in a contraction in demand within the economy and this, coupled with the squeeze on imports and drying up of external financing, had contributed to a slow down in economic growth (gross domestic product) of around one per cent in 1991-92. From there, overall economic growth recovered to 4.3 per cent in 1992-93 and 1993-94 and improved thereafter to 5.6 per cent in 1994-95 and is expected to touch six per cent this fiscal year. The expectation seems realistic in view of the upturn in industrial production which is well in two digits in the first half of the current fiscal year. In particular, manufacturing is up substantially, against a decline in the similar period of last year.

There is similar good news on the foreign trade front, with exports buoyant by 29.86 per cent during April-July this year. It is another matter that import growth too is at a high of 39.20 per cent during the same period, but the composition of imports shows that a bulk of it is for industrial production which, in turn, reflects the buoyancy on the production front. The higher imports are not yet a matter of concern as the corrective in terms of exchange rate adjustment has got activated and the depreciation of the rupee vis-a-vis the dollar is expected to act as a check against reckless import growth. Even otherwise, there is expectation among economy managers that exports and imports would both go up, but there should be no alarm as long as they reach an equilibrium. So far import payments are being covered by export earnings averaging around 90 per cent since 1992. In the beginning of the eighties the "coverage" used to be around 52.4 per cent and around 70 per cent by the end of the eighties.

The higher level of imports has also led to some upward movement in the current account deficit which ended at 0.6 per cent of the GDP in 1994-95. But the situation is not causing much concern as long as the inflow on the "invisibles" account remains good (net invisibles inflow was around $1.8 billion last year) and there is a pick up in the actual materialising of foreign direct investment commitments. There are indications that this is happening; also, there is a revival of foreign institutional investment, though the levels are not anywhere near the $250 million plus that they were till September last year.

The positive list includes the performance of the agriculture sector as well. Monsoon, for the seventh year in succession has been from normal to excess and reports indicate that till August, the rainfall was excess or normal in 86 per cent of the meteorological subdivisions. Consequently, foodgrains production is expected to be better than the 190 million tonnes harvested in 1994-95. For the government, however, the most advantageous point is that official foodstocks stand at 36.44 million tonnes (as on July 1, 1995) which provides sufficient leeway for supply and price management.

At the bottom of the list is inflation which actually falls in the grey area of the positive-negative list. At the moment, inflation is down to levels of eight per cent, a praiseworthy achievement compared with the over 17 per cent inflation recorded in August 1991. But the optimism of the government that overall inflation would be contained within single digits is not shared by many economists. Their view is that with the fiscal situation being what it is, inflation is bound to creep back to double digit levels by the end of the calendar year. This is where the trouble begins.

If there is one single non-achievement — the word failure would not be correct — on the part of the present managers of the economy, it is the expanding fiscal deficit of the government. For those who have closely followed the developments on the economic front for the last four-five years, the cornerstone of the new economic policies was fiscal consolidation in the economy. Apart from the external crisis which engulfed the economy in 1991, there was acute awareness that the huge fiscal deficit in the economy — amounting to borrowing to exist — was a fundamental distortion which had to be corrected. The fiscal deficit, which had shot up to 8.4 per cent of the GDP in 1990-91 was the immediate target and this was brought down to six per cent with the 1991-92 fiscal year. Encouraged with this success, the Finance Ministry chose a figure of 4.7 per cent as the fiscal deficit for 1993-94 and it was mentioned that the deficit could actually be even lower, but a higher figure was provided in order to "re-heat" the economy which had cooled down in the preceding year.

On the whole, the fiscal deficit would be brought down to two to three per cent in the coming years, was the proud claim.

The slippage occurred that very year against the target of 4.7 per cent, the year 1993-94 ended up with a fiscal deficit of 7.7 per cent. The reasons for this were not difficult to find as the elections to some of the northern States forced the Finance Ministry to ease up on fiscal discipline and control on it was not regained. Embarrassed at the high fiscal deficit, an uneasy Finance Minister announced a return to fiscal consolidation and promised that he would close 1994-95 with a fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent. He ended up at 6.7 per cent.

Commenting on this, the IMF recently put out a document stating that "stabilisation of the Indian economy owed much to the initial fiscal adjustment at the Central Government level, which increased the credibility of the macroeconomic policy. In view of the subsequent fiscal slippage at the Central Government level, however, and

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a deterioration of the States' fiscal position, the consolidated public sector deficit in 1994-95 remained close to its level in 1990-91." In other words, it was back to square one as far as fiscal management is concerned.

The IMF goes on to voice a common concern, "The continuing large deficit and high level of public indebtedness raise concerns about the sustainability of fiscal policy. Increasing pressures on real interest rates have already emerged, and these threaten to crowd out private investment. These fiscal pressures underscore the need to strengthen State finances given the risk that fiscal adjustment at the Central level could be undermined by expansionary policies by States."

Another fall out of the new policies is the shift in the government's borrowing strategy. Having given up the practice of poaching on cheap bank funds, the government has now moved over to borrowing at market rates and with telling effect. Money which could earlier be borrowed at rates as low as six per cent is now available at 13-14 per cent interest and the obvious result of this is the ballooning of the interest burden of the government. For 1995-96, the interest payments are expected to be Rs [rupees] 52,000 crores or 52 per cent of the revenue receipts during the year.

There was another disturbing trend which is now seeing a reverse. In the early months of the current financial year the level of ad hoc treasury bills issued by the government had crossed the "within the year ceiling" of Rs 9,000 crores, forcing the Reserve Bank to issue fresh government paper to bring down the ad hoc creation. Economists, however, see a financing problem in this and not a deficit problem and the expectation is that as the revenue receipts of the government flow in, the dependence on ad hoc would go down further.

On the expenditure side, however, there is scope for concern. The finance minister has himself talked about an additional expenditure of Rs 5,000 crores on account of social welfare schemes launched by the government in an election year, This uncovered expenditure is expected to push up the deficit by 0.5 per cent of the GDP. Plus, there is the apprehension that food and fertilizer subsidies would go beyond the budgeted amounts: on account of a higher carrying cost of the high official food stocks and the cheaper sale through select outlets under the revamped public distribution scheme and in case of fertilizer because of higher cost of production which would require a revision in farm gate prices but are unlikely due to political factors. On both counts, therefore, a higher subsidy outgo is likely.

Another expenditure is the expected payout on account of higher government wages expected on the basis of the interim recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission. The estimated outgo is in the region of Rs 1,650 crores.

These additional expenditures can be covered only if there is additional revenue generation. On this score too, there is some doubt as excise revenues are not showing the desired buoyancy. While income tax and customs collections are higher, the loopholes in excise laws brought about by the extension of modified value added tax (Modvat) to more items is said to be resulting in revenue leakages. Hence, the scope for additional revenue mobilisation, over and above budget estimates, seems difficult. The only silver lining in this seems to be the licence fee that could come in through the telecom tenders issues for cellular phones (the tenders in case of basic telephone services is still in a limbo). While this could provide the government with unexpected revenue, how this money will accrue to the government coffers remains unclear.

At the half-way mark of the current financial year, therefore, the picture of the economy looks somewhat mixed. While this year would run out without much difficulty, the present managers have, nonetheless, queered the pitch for those who will have to manage the economy in the coming years.

Minor Reshuffle of Cabinet Portfolios Announced

BK1909161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A minor reallocation of portfolios of some ministers has been announced today. A Rashtrapati Nilayam [President's House] press communique from Secunderabad said that the minister of state for defense and parliamentary affairs, Mr. Mallikarjun, will relinquish additional charge of Ministry of Railways. The minister of state for chemicals and fertilizers and electronics and ocean development will relinquish his additional charge as minister of state for parliamentary affairs. The minister of state for urban development and poverty alleviation, Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia, has been asked to hold charge as minister of state for parliamentary affairs also. The minister of state for civil supplies, consumer affairs and public distribution, Mrs. Krishna Sahi, has been asked to look after the Department of Civil Supplies, while Mr. Vinod Sharma, minister of state in the same ministry, is to look after the Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

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Iran

Officials at UN Demand Airline Hijackers' Extradition

LD1909145795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the hijacking of an Iranian airliner, our country's mission at the United Nations sent a memo to the UN secretary general. The memo reads:

At 1040 today, a Boeing 707 passenger airliner, chartered by Kish Air, registration EPSHE, was hijacked on the Tehran-Kish route in Iranian airspace and landed in the land occupied by the Zionist regime a few hours later. While condemning this terrorist act which disrupts air security, and in accordance with the 1970 Hague Convention and other international standards regarding the fight against hijacking, the Islamic Republic of Iran demands the immediate and safe return of the passengers, crew, and aircraft, and the extradition of the hijackers. [Video shows pictures of the airliner on ground with passengers and people around it]

Israeli 'Procrastination' After Hijacking Assailed

LD2009104795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy minister in charge of international affairs at the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Mohammad Javad Zarif] has described the Zionist regime's procrastination over the return of the passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane and the return of the plane itself, as a clear example of that regime's support for terrorism.

In an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit he said: In accordance with international regulations, hijacking is an international crime and should be confronted decisively. It is therefore necessary not to waste time and to return the hijacked plane, passengers, crew, and hijacker to Iran.

He said that because of political considerations, the Zionist regime has not taken the necessary measures up to now for the return of the plane and passengers, and this itself is a kind of support for terrorism and non-adherence of the Zionist regime to international commitments.

Mr. Zarif pointed to the hijacker's request to the United States for political asylum and said: Unfortunately, the U.S. State Department has dealt with this issue as if it was a normal request for political asylum. This demonstrates U.S. double-standards in its approach towards terrorism. Concerning the latest efforts made by our country over the return of the aircraft, passengers, and crew, our country's deputy foreign minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has made a lot of effort and has been in touch with international forums, notably the United Nations and the International Civil Aviation Organization, and it is continuing these efforts.

Spokesman Rejects Israeli 'Link' to Missing Pilot

LD2009103095 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Iran on Wednesday [20 September] rejected Israel's attempts to link a hijacked Iranian airliner to the fate of missing Israeli pilot, Ron Arad.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, said Iran has time and again announced that it knows nothing about the fate of the Israeli pilot, and therefore, attributing the issue of the hijacked Iranian aircraft to a "baseless claim" is not acceptable.

Iran has never agreed to support terrorism under whatever pretext, Mohammadi told IRNA.

Meanwhile, the official described a statement issued by the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) concerning the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the "repetition of the baseless claims of the Emirates." The PGCC has embarked on repeating such divisive allegations at a time when the world of Islam has concentrated its attention on the fate of Muslim peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Southern Lebanon, he said.

The spokesman noted that such statements contradict the prinicples of good neighborliness and cooperation in the region. Reiterating the inseparability of regional stability and security, Mohammadi said repeating such unfounded claims will not make any change in the fact that the three Persian Gulf islands belonged to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said such a measure, will only serve the interest of the big powers in the strategic and sensitive region of the Persian Gulf and will divide Muslims.

Iran has always been a pioneer in negotiations with the U.A.E. and as before, it invites U.A.E. officials to show their good will in connection with negotiations with Iran in the context of a letter sent by U.A.E emir, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, rather than resorting to propaganda ballyhoo and illogical options which will only further complicate the issue.

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IRNA on 'Blackmail' for 'Linkage'

LD2009144695 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sep. 20, IRNA — The head of the Zionist regime, Yitzhaq Rabin, was holding consultations with his advisors and cabinet members as well as with security officials on the hijacked Iranian airliner Wednesday [20 September] morning, according to a report from al-Quds [Jerusalem].

The key question being discussed was whether to release the Iranian plane with its passengers immediately or to wait 24 or 48 hours, perhaps a few days, in order to blackmail the Islamic Republic into giving information on the fate of missing Israeli navigator, Ron Arad, whom the Zionist state alleges is being held in Iran or by Iranian-backed groups.

Tehran has categorically denied the Israeli accusation.

It is not exactly clear how long the consultations will last and what decision, if any, will be taken after they are over.

The Zionist regime has allowed Arad's mother to meet with Iranian passengers to plea her son's case to them. Last night, the Arad family asked the Zionist regime publicly to make a linkage between the release of the Iranian plane and passengers and the Arad issue.

Generally, the passengers spent the night in occupied Palestine peacefully, given the circumstances of their plight.

The Iranians behaved in exemplary manners. All the Iranians interviewed by the Israeli media spoke firmly and objectively about their plight, and none of them uttered sycophant remarks to please the Israelis.

An Iranian engineer from Tehran named Nasser said in the Israel radio English news programme at 7:00 a.m. (Israeli time) [0500 GMT] that the Zionist regime which constantly accuses Iran of terrorism would itself be proved terrorist if it continued holding the passengers and the plane.

The behaviour of Iranian passengers have left a very favourable impression on viewers in general and Palestinian viewers in particular.

A Palestinian viewer was quoted saying: "See, this is how real Muslims behave."

Last night, Israeli television showed a group of passengers praying in the air-base terminal. The passengers were in high spirits and didn't seem to be subdued.

Media Comments on Roles in Hijacking Incident

IRNA Views 'Israeli Hand'

LD1909144495 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 95

["Israeli Hand in Plane Hijacking Exposed" — IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — News reports indicate the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's personal involvement in the hijacking of an Iranian Boeing 707 passenger plane in her flight from Tehran to Kish Island at the persian Gulf.

Control towers in Iran have said that they had monitored radio conversations between the hijackers and other control towers immediatly after the plane had been comandeered by armed terrorists.

They have said that the talk between the terrorist hijackers and Israeli officials, which they monitored, indicated a pre-arranged scheme with the knowledge of the Israelis.

AFP said in a dispatch from Tel Aviv that the Ben Gurion airport in the Israeli capital was put on full military alert, quoting an airport official in Tel Aviv that they were fully prepared.

Interim reports indicate that the Israeli prime minister had commissioned a special team for the hijacking operations.

An Iranian aviation official said here Tuesday [19 September] that the fact that the passenger plane had been comandeered over the air space of several countries into Israel had its own implications since, among other reasons, the Iranian plane having been airworthy only for a short flight her hijacking to a remote destination was obviously technically extremely risky.

Radio Says Planned by U.S., Israel

NC2009064395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, a 707 SAHA [Iranian airline company] jet was hijacked en route to Kish island from Tehran with over 170 passengers and crew on board. The hijacked plane overflew Saudi Arabia and Jordan and landed at a Zionist regime military base.

Since the hijacked plane could have landed in Saudi Arabia or Jordan and in light of remarks by the hijacker

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that "our hosts are waiting for us in Israel," you can deduce that the hijacking was planned and the hijacker perpetrated his crime with the assistance of the Zionist regime.

The SAHA jet is the first Iranian plane to be hijacked and taken to the Zionist regime's soil for two decades. Reports say the hijackers requested political asylum from the United States, while the Zionist regime announced that the hijacker would not be extradited to Iran. If the United States were to give political asylum to the hijacker and if the Zionist regime were to shelter him, the entire circle of the plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran would be complete.

In Khordad [22 May-21 June] this year, when the United States imposed an economic embargo against Iran, out of 190 countries, only the Zionist regime supported it. Now with the defeat of the economic measures, the United States and the Zionist regime are ostensibly encouraging and motivating terrorist actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, just as they did in the past.

International documentation and regulations stipulate that under no circumstances can hijackers be considered activists or political asylum-seekers. In all countries and international societies, hijackers are tried and convicted as criminals. Accordingly, if political asylum is given to the SAHA hijacker, this would show the enmity that exists for the Islamic Republic of Iran and would blatantly violate international norms and agreements.

Since yesterday, soon after the hijacking, our officials have been seeking to vindicate our country's rights. But the evidence shows that on the eve of Holy Defense Week, the United States and Israel are not too disinclined to create an uproar and raise a propagandist hue and cry over the solution of this issue.

Report on Hijacking Attempts 'Foiled' Since 1984

LD1909121595 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 19 Sep 95

["70 Cases of Hijacking Foiled Since 1984" — IRNA Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — Iran has managed to foil 70 attempts by anti-revolutionary and terrorist groups to hijack passenger planes over the past ten years.

These include 11 cases in the sky.

All agents responsible for the hijackings have either been killed, injured or arrested in the wake of clashes with security forces to defuse their plots.

After the hijacking of the 'friendship' plane belonging to the national Iranian oil company earlier this year the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has been commissioned to protect private and IRGC planes.

Meanwhile, according to an official statement by the Civil Aviation Organization, there are a total of 160 passengers and 14 crew members aboard the plane hijacked today en route from Tehran to Kish. The passengers include 82 men, 67 women and 11 children.

Commentary Views Israel's Nonmembership in NPT

NC2009080395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] was inaugurated on Monday [18 September] in Vienna. The session will discuss nuclear weapons, ways and means of preventing the proliferation of atomic weapons, and a modus operandi for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

On the first day of the IAEA session, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran [AEOI] explained the principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its peaceful use of nuclear energy within the framework of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and criticized the efforts of nonmembers of the Treaty for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their tacit support by the greater powers. He called on the IAEA to exert pressure on countries that are not NPT signatories to limit their unauthorized nuclear activities.

Ever since the first atomic weapons were proclaimed inhuman, the international community has made extensive efforts to destroy or at least limit them. But despite all these efforts, nuclear weapons have not been destroyed and the international community has not achieved its ideal of a world devoid of nuclear armaments; the quality and quantity of these weapons has multiplied.

The most important mechanism [preceding word in English] involving countries working to limit nuclear weapons is that enshrined in the NPT, according to which countries with nuclear capability are required not to give nuclear arms or technology to other countries. Non-nuclear countries have accepted that they will not seek access to nuclear weapons.

The NPT authorizes the use of nuclear energy only for peaceful objectives. The renewed NPT has a document appended stipulating the principles and objectives of nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament in an effort

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to eliminate the weak points in the Treaty and to make it more effective.

Although the NPT is 25 years old, some countries are still hedging over committing themselves to it. The Zionist regime—despite the efforts of the regional countries and the repeated requests of most countries—has not signed the NPT, using various pretexts on which it has U.S. support. It continues to avoid IAEA supervision of its nuclear activities.

This, confirmed reports say, is happening while this regime has active nuclear bases and has stockpiled over 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenals. This regime's nonmembership, preventing the NPT from becoming a comprehensive one, is construed as a factor undermining the Treaty. The request by Iran's AEOI head for the international community to pressure the Zionist regime to sign the NPT is a means of eliminating the weak points in the NPT. If implemented, this would enhance the control mechanism [preceding two words in English] and nuclear disarmament—one of society's historical goals.

Commentary Views U.S., Pakistani 'Security Pact'

NC1509130695 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Aug 95 p 15

[Commentary by Taqi Dezhakam: "Pakistan—Questionable Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been sporadic reports since the middle of last month of talks between the United States and the Pakistani Government regarding a security pact. While the signing of such an agreement did not seem very definite initially, recent remarks by the Pakistani interior minister—that in the next few months the FBI, the U.S. federal police office, will open an office in Karachi and Pakistan's FIA, Federal Investigation Agency, will open an office in Washington—have added a new dimension to the issue.

Pakistani Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar described the aim of the measure to be the strengthening of the joint network against terrorism and organized crime and announced that the opening of these two offices in Karachi and Washington is aimed at identifying and capturing terrorists who leave Pakistan after committing crimes and also at protecting U.S. citizens in Pakistan.

Commenting in this regard, FIA sources have said this decision was made on the higher level of the Pakistani Government. They announced that the budget for this office in Washington has been allocated for 1995-96 and the office is expected to begin functioning in the next two months.

This action by the Pakistani Government has elicited extensive opposition among the Pakistani authorities. In a recent edition, JANG cited General Hamid Gul, the former head of Inter-Services Intelligence of the Pakistani Armed Forces, saying that an FBI office in Pakistan would contravene the country's national independence and adding: Our proud government cannot tolerate such an action. He insisted that parliamentary deputies should tackle the issue seriously.

In another edition, the same newspaper disseminated a report saying that a Pakistani parliamentarian in charge of opposition affairs, Chaudhri Jafar Iqbal, conveyed the intense and severe opposition of his faction to the National Assembly's secretariat regarding the FBI opening an office in Pakistan with the right to arrest Pakistani citizens. He asked that the issue be incorporated in the Assembly's agenda for debate.

In addition to internal opposition, since Karachi Province is contiguous to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue takes on added importance. Officials of our diplomatic apparatus should take expedient measures to convey their official and frank objections to the Pakistani Government echelons to safeguard and uphold the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government.

This can be construed as a foreign enemy overtly interfering in the internal affairs of the Muslim country of Pakistan. The record of the criminal U.S. Government indicates that extending such privileges to it is tantamount to the arrest, abduction, and punishment of all those individuals who will oppose the imperialist U.S. Government in the region and thus the revolutionary Muslims will be the first victims of this illegitimate presence.

So recent developments in Pakistan should be viewed under a microscope. Of course it is far-fetched to believe that bilateral political consultations would not be effective in resolving these issues.

NIOC-Total Continue Talks on Siri Oil Fields

LD1709093395 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — At present there is no obstacle on the way of continued negotiations between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the French oil company Total for the development and exploitation of Siri oil and gas fields, Seyyed Mehdi Hoseyni, an oil industry official said here on Saturday [16 September].

Some Western news media recently had claimed that the negotiations between NIOC and Total had proved

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fruitless since Total requires Coverage of the French State Insurance (COFACE) for the operations, while the COFACE asks the repayment of Iran's debt of 700 million francs first.

The NIOC director for exploration affairs, speaking to IRNA said he had no knowledge of the matter, adding that he met with Total's deputy chairman last Wednesday and there were no talks over such a difficulty.

He added that current negotiations were being held under a good and positive atmosphere and affairs were going ahead as planned.

The Total representative is in Tehran now and its office is to be opened soon, Hoseyni emphasized.

He also categorically denied claims made by certain foreign media that due to shortage of spare parts Iran's oil production has been reduced below 3 million barrels a day. Hoseyni termed the allegations as mere lies, adding that the country's oil production has not reduced at all.

Majles Official Meets Kuwaiti Parliamentary Group

LD1809115595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles deputy speaker Hasan Rohani today met with the members of the parliamentary friendship groups of Kuwait and Iran.

The secretary to the Supreme National Security Council referred to the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region and criticized the ever-increasing presence of foreign forces in the region. He said that all regional problems emanate from foreign forces' greed for the region's oil.

The Majles deputy speaker declared the Zionist regime as the main factor for regional problems and difficulties. Referring to Iraqi internal issues, he said that instability in there has created many security problems for the region, and the main obstacle to resolving Iraqi problems is U.S. interference. He added: We emphasize the need to maintain Iraqi territorial integrity, and we are against its disintegration. We believe that the people of Iraq should resolve their issues themselves.

(?Qannam 'Ali al-Jamhur), head of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, referred to the expansion of ties between Iran and Kuwait, and said that cooperation and sincere, close ties between the countries in the region will solve many problems. Pointing out the expansionist policies of the Zionist regime, he said that Israel has never been in favor of a true peace. Speaking about Iraq's internal issues, the head of the kuwaiti delegation underlined the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity.

Military Exercise To Begin in Tehran on 22 Sep

LD1909181695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The great Zolfaqar urban maneuvers will be staged in Tehran at the start of the Holy Defense Week [beginning 22 September].

Brigadier General Guard [Sartip-e Pasdar] Rahim Safavi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced that 30,000 [as heard] basiji forces will participate in these maneuvers. The aim of the exercises is to test the organizational strength of the Ashura and al-Zahra battalions and will involve parachute jumping from helicopters over Tehran's city squares.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Guard Corps Commanders

LD1809124195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The eighth nationwide gathering of the commanders and officials of the Revolutionary Guard Corps was opened this morning in Tehran.

At the opening session, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles, paid tribute to all the martyrs on the path of the holy defense and once again praised the self-sacrifice and heroism of the brave men of the Islamic forces during the eight years of heroic defense of the Islamic sanctuary and the Islamic system of Iran.

Stressing the importance of the lofty position of Velayat-e Faqih [Guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult], the Majles speaker stated: Velayat-e Faqih is a firm pillar. As long as it exists in our school and in the holy Islamic system, the enemies will not be able to do anything, and the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran are safe from any harm.

Referring to the efforts made by the enemies to create doubt and skepticism around Velayat-e Faqih, he rejected the murmurings about the separation of religion from politics, and said: It is you that must safeguard the divine system and the government of the Supreme Jurisconsult with full vigilance and by adhering to the decrees and instructions of the guardian of the cause of world muslims.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also mentioned the need for further efforts by the clergy, preachers, scholars, artists, writers, and other officials to pursue this important cause.

The head of the legislative system continued his remarks by praising the services and work carried out by the government and especially that of the president. He said: The work which has been carried out by the government is among the pride of the country and

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system. Wherever you travel in the country you will see work and infrastructure and fundamental services that are carried out by the government and this at a time when the enemies are trying to magnify the smallest weaknesses.

The eighth gathering of the Guard Corps will continue until 20 September.

Velayati Addresses IRGC Role, 'Principled Stances'

LD1909111395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The victory of the Islamic revolution has given strength to the world of Islam. Announcing this and stressing the role played by the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps [IRGC] in the successes and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country's foreign minister, who was speaking today at a seminar of IRGC commanders and officials from throughout the country, added: Today, the world has realized that a correct assessment of international relations is impossible without taking into account the positions adopted by Muslims.

Mr. Velayati said that the expansion of regional cooperation is one of the country's foreign policy priorities and called for the greatest possible solidarity within the world of Islam in the confrontation with the world of arrogance.

The foreign minister also stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's consistent and constant adherence to its principled stances, especially on the Salman Rushdie issue. [passage omitted]

Ulema Communique Urges Adherence to Khomeyni Path

LD1709211595 Tehran IRNA in English 2032 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — On the occasion of the anniversary of the sacred defense week, the combatant ulema of Tehran Sunday [17 September] issued a communique in which they urged adherence to the path set by Imam Khomeyni.

The communique of the militant ulema said the Islamic revolution is identified throughout the world with Imam Khomeyni's name. It added that the principle of vialyat faqih (the rule of Supreme Jurisprudent) should be safeguarded.

They said in their communique that certain individuals under the guise of intellecualism were making inroads on religion-based government. It said the supreme relgious authority in the Islamic system must have absolute power in order to properly administer the affairs of the Muslim state in the present chaotic world circumstances.

The communique of the militant ulema of Tehran also commended the first and second national development plan, saying that the aspirations for social equity had been already largely fullfilled in the Islamic Republic although there is still a long way to its perfection.

It said a balance should be drawn between social equity and development without tending to stress either to the prejudice of the other.

The ulema said that the Islamic Republic should define its policies and strategies in relation to development and adopt a process for development which would reinforce rather than go against religious and revolutionary principles.

Official Stresses Ulema Role in National Affairs

LD1909123095 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — A senior Iranian alim here Monday [18 September] said that neither ulema themselves should leave the political scene and executive affairs of the country nor they should be put aside by others. Speaking on the occasion of the start of the new academic year at Imam Sadeq (as) University, Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani referred to the 1906 constitutional movement and nationalization of oil industry in Iran in 1951. He said that ulema played a key role and were highly influential in making these movements to attain their goals.

The ayatollah added that over the past one hundred years senior ulema have been on the front line of revolutionary movements leading the nation.

"This revolution will be exteremly vulnerable in the absence of backing and support of the ulema because there are too many wounded enemies both inside and outside the country who constantly want to destroy the Islamic revolution. The ulema and velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] with the assistance and backing of the dedicated Muslim masses ensure the revolution," said Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani.

The ayatollah who is also the chancellor of Imam Sadeq (as) University stressed, "we should aquire the sciences which are useful to the society and country from everywhere and make them fit into our own culture."

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Pakistan

Daily Assails Dependence on 'Unreliable Friends'

BK1709124695 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 17 Sep 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Restoration of U.S. Aid Again in Doldrums"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee could not reach a decision on the issue of temporarily suspending the Pressler Amendment. So the supply of military equipment and spare parts worth $370 million to Pakistan has been postponed once again. Robin Raphel, U.S. deputy secretary of state for South Asia, Senator Brown, chairman of the subcommittee for the Near East, and Larry Pressler, author of the Pressler Amendment, recorded their statements in the committee meeting.

A majority of the members of the committee agreed that the supply of military equipment and spare parts worth $370 million will not affect the balance of power in South Asia. Some experts of a U.S. "think tank," however, expressed concern about the possibilities of some negative effects on India, which shoved the matter of easing the Pressler Amendment into cold storage once again.

The Clinton Administration has proposed to the committee that Pakistan should be provided with three antisubmarine P-3's, Orion aircraft, MK-46 Torpedoes, Harpoon and Sidewinder missiles, and engines and spare parts for the F-16's Pakistan already owns. Sen. Pressler strongly opposed it, however, and won the support of a few experts. Although Sen. Brown and Raphel strongly supported Pakistan, they could not overcome Sen. Pressler's stubbornness. Pressler supported India's apprehension that by receiving Orion aircraft Pakistan would have the capability to keep watch over U.S. military movements in the Gulf; then it could create problems for the United States by passing this information on to Iran.

Unfortunately, the Pakistani leadership has failed to make influential circles in the United States realize that they must fulfill the pledges made with their military allies. Pakistan and the United States have been involved in mutual defense pacts since 1950. It is a bitter fact, however, that the United States has always been unfaithful to Pakistan in an hour of need. Except for the years during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the United States has always deprived Pakistan of its military and economic aid and has always used the fear of disturbing the balance of power in South Asia as an excuse for its unfaithful attitude.

India has become an indomitable military power and should not feel any threat from Pakistan. India continued acquiring all kinds of military equipment from the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist bloc. Now Russia and many Western countries are providing the most modern arms to India. By virtue of the covert and overt support of the United States, it has become a strong military (rather nuclear) power and is now looking forward to becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The biggest dispute between India and Pakistan is the Kashmir dispute, which is the root cause of all other disputes and differences. In the Tashkent Declaration and the Simla Accord, India accepted that this was the main cause of all the disputes. The Indian leadership promised the Security Council, Pakistan, the Kashmiri people, and the whole world, in fact, that they would allow the Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination by holding a free and impartial plebiscite in Kashmir under the supervision of the United Nations.

It is not Pakistan's fault that India is not fulfilling its international commitments. If Pakistani higher authorities are unable to make the United States or any other powers see the obstinacy of the Indian leadership, their inhuman policies, and the human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir, then the claims of a successful foreign policy are baseless.

The intentional or unintentional helplessness of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee has proven once again that Pakistan should give up a policy of dependence on others, particularly on unreliable friends like the United States. It should have confidence in its own potential and should adopt a policy of self-reliance in arms production. The nuclear capability that Pakistan has already acquired (which could not develop further because of U.S. pressure) is serving as a shield for Pakistan against any possible war between India and Pakistan or any aggression against Pakistan from any other side. Pakistan should take full advantage of this capability and should try to become a nuclear power. France is a good example for us; it is continuing its nuclear tests despite opposition from all over the world. We should not be scared of any opposition to developing a nuclear capability, which is essential for our defense.

Leghari Cautions India on Crossing Line of Control

BK1909141995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan will resist with full might any adventure by India across the Line of Control. He was

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speaking at a function on international day of peace in Islamabad today.

[Begin Leghari recording] I have considered my duty to caution India that any adventure across the Line of Control will be resisted with all our might [applause]. It needs no reiteration that the armed forces of Pakistan are ready and able to defend every inch of Pakistan's territory [applause]. This message should go loud and clear across the border. It is also clear that the people of Kashmir have never considered local elections to be a substitute for plebiscite promised to them in the Security Council resolutions. India's determination to go ahead with these farcical elections only indicates that it has run out of options. India is determined to foist a rigged and fraudulent election on Kashmiris. But, let me say that these attempts at a contrived solution [as heard] are bound to fail. [end recording]

He said the world knows that the hostage drama in occupied Kashmir is an attempt to find a pretext for further oppression and killing of innocent Kashmiris. The so-called Al-Faran group has been denounced by Kashmiri leadership and the government and people of Pakistan. The group, he said, has no connection with any resistance movement and certainly no connection with Pakistan.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said Pakistan has no favorites among the warring factions in Afghanistan and it is ready to do whatever is required to bring peace in that country. He condemned the attack on the Pakistan embassy in Kabul.

[Begin Leghari recording] I take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest of terms the armed assault on Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, the killing of a patriotic Pakistani and severe injuries to our diplomatic personnel. There is no doubt in our mind that sufficient security was not provided to the Pakistan Embassy. Allegations that the Kabul government had instigated the entire event may not be without foundation. Civilized governments do not behave in this manner. We hope that the restraint shown by Pakistan will not be misread. [end recording]

The president also made it clear that there was no move to destabilize the Government of Azad Kashmir. He said no efforts are under way at the federal level to destabilize the government of Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan.

The chairman of the Kashmir Committee of Parliament, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, called for implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir. He thanked OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] for supporting the Kashmiris right of self-determination. The function was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights.

Leghari Views Kashmir, Attack on Embassy in Kabul

BK1909122795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan has the will and power to resist any aggression and its armed forces are capable to defend its frontiers. Speaking at a function organized by the London-based Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination is bound to succeed as it is an indigenous one launched by them. He eulogized the struggle of Kashmiris who have been resisting successfully the occupation of their land by over 600,000 Indian troops. He said 50,000 Kashmiris have laid down their lives in the struggle, but India has not been able to crush their freedom struggle. The president, in his speech, also dealt with various world issues, including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Palestine, and Rwanda. He condemned the armed assault on the Pakistan embassy in Kabul and said sufficient security was not provided to the embassy by the Kabul authorities.

Addressing the function, the chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, regretted the failure of the United Nations to implement its resolution on Kashmir even after 50 years. He said the sacrifices being rendered by Kashmiris for their liberation would not go in vain.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, in his speech assured that the Azad Kashmir would be Pakistan's defense line in case of Indian aggression against it. He emphasized the need for complete unity in the ranks of Pakistanis and Kashmiris for the liberation of Kashmir.

The secretary general of the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, Syed Nazir Gilani, highlighted efforts of the council to divert the world attention toward the unresolved problem of Kashmir.

UN Envoy Leaves for Peace Talks in Afghanistan

LD1909122295 Tehran IRNA in English 1143 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 19, IRNA — Leader of the UN mission on Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri left here Tuesday [19 September] morning for Kabul on the fifth round of his mission to negotiate restoration of peace in that country.

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A spokesman of the office of the general secretary in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in Islamabad talking to IRNA said that Mestiri has left for Kabul where he will meet Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other leaders to discuss the Afghan crisis and sort out a solution to it. Mestiri is scheduled to be back to Islamabad tonight or tomorrow, the spokesman told IRNA.

Diplomatic sources say here that the Kabul government will press Mestiri to give top priority to the issue of foreign interference in internal affairs of Afghanistan. The Afghan foreign minister had also taken up the issue of foreign interference in the country with Mestiri when the two met during the recent seminar on cooperation and security among Central Asian states in Tashkent.

The Kabul government has charged Pakistan with interfering in Afghanistan by supporting militant Taleban. Pakistan has denied the charge and said it was completely neutral in the ongoing Afghan infighting.

Editorial Addresses 'Indian Hand' in Afghanistan

BK1909110295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 19 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian Hand in Kabul"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AN AGENCY report displayed prominently in yesterday's national papers gives details of the extent of Indian penetration in Afghanistan. It highlights close economic, military and intelligence links between New Delhi and the Mas'ud-Rabbani regime of Kabul. One is shocked and surprised to see a foreign power which supported the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan and was closely associated with the former communist government on Najib has now managed to worm itself into a favourable position with one of the most powerful factions of Mojahedin a faction which played a major role in pushing the Soviet out and toppling the Moscow-backed government of Najib.

According to details, India reopened its mission in Kabul on May 3, 1995 which was closed on May 7, 1994. Prior to the reopening of its mission, it had offered 1000 tons of food and medicine to Rabbani's government. It is now exerting pressure on this regime to allow it to operate Consulate General in Jalalabad and Qandahar for spying and having close contacts with the warring factions.

India today is the biggest military partner of Rabbani having supplied to his force's spares, night flighting equipment, cluster bombs and medical facilities. Besides, India provides pilots and technicians to the Afghan government and also trains its pilots. On the average, 24 flights operate between New Delhi and Kabul in a month. With these overt and covert manoeuvres, India has managed to turn the regime in Kabul into posture of hostility against Islamabad.

Afghan government's spokesmen have been issuing statements against Pakistan on the behest of Indians while President Rabbani himself has publicly accused Pakistan of arming and training Taleban, though insiders fully know that Taleban is an indigenous group which studied in religious schools in the refugee camps.

The story is a sad reflection of the failure of Pakistan's Afghan policy and an indictment of its diplomats and foreign office mandarins. We were in a very advantageous position to play an effective role among various warring factions of Mojahedin, but due to lack of perspective and confusion about our long-term interests, Pakistan frittered away its favourable position. Our setbacks in Kabul have to be seen in the context of immense social, economic, political and military consequences of the Afghan Jihad for Pakistan. The first blunder that we committed was to view Afghan resistance from Washington's strategic perspective instead of looking at it from our own national angle. Secondly, after the Soviet pull-out, we could not shake off the Cold War. Now we are reaping the bitter harvest of earlier blunders. The time has come to make a basic revision of our Afghan policy.

Immediate Closure of Afghan Offices Said Ordered

BK2009130795 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 20 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar (general reporter) — According to the orders issed by the federal government, offices of the 33 Afghan organizations are to be closed immediately, while the Afghans working have been told to leave Pakistan within 48 hours.

The government has already given notices to these organizations. Four women sections of some organizations are also included within these 33 organizations. The offices of these organizations are in Faqirabad, Dallazak Road, Shinwari Sarai and other areas of Peshawar. The Afghan commision has started taking immediate action on the orders of the federal government.

Government, Altaf Group Leaders Comment on Talks

BK1909164195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government and [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Altaf Group negotiating teams have agreed to begin point-to-point discussions on their 21

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and 18-point agendas as of tomorrow. This was stated by the leaders of the two teams, Professor N.D. Khan and Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, after conclusion of first session of the ninth round of their parleys in Islamabad tonight. The two leaders described their talks as progressing along positive lines and said they are prepared to make common efforts for the restoration of peace in Karachi. Talking to newsmen, the law minister announced that from tomorrow onwards, the negotiations will run on two parallel tracks. One track, he said, would deal with protection of life and property and restoration of normalcy in Karachi, while the other would go along threadbare discussions on the agenda presented by the two sides during earlier round of talks in the shape of their 21 and 18 points. He was happy to note that in today's talks the two sides shared common concern to restore law and order and peace in Karachi. Prof. N.D. Khan noted with satisfaction that at their talks today, they presented some concrete proposals, which have been reciprocated by Altaf Group team.

Reciprocating the leader of the Altaf Group team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, said some progress has been achieved and decisions taken by them would lead to positive and hopeful results. He said the government team listened to their grievances sympathetically.

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